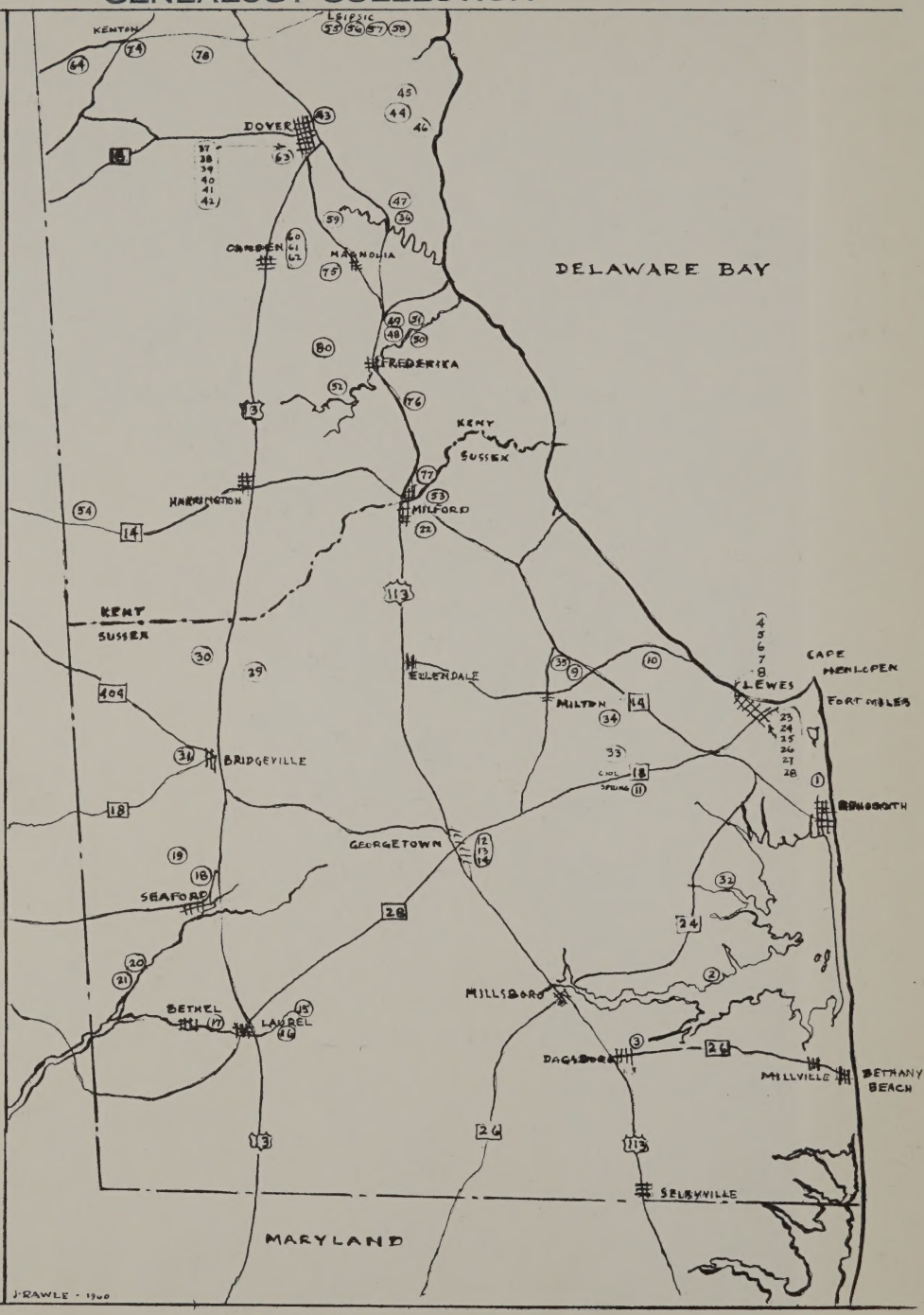
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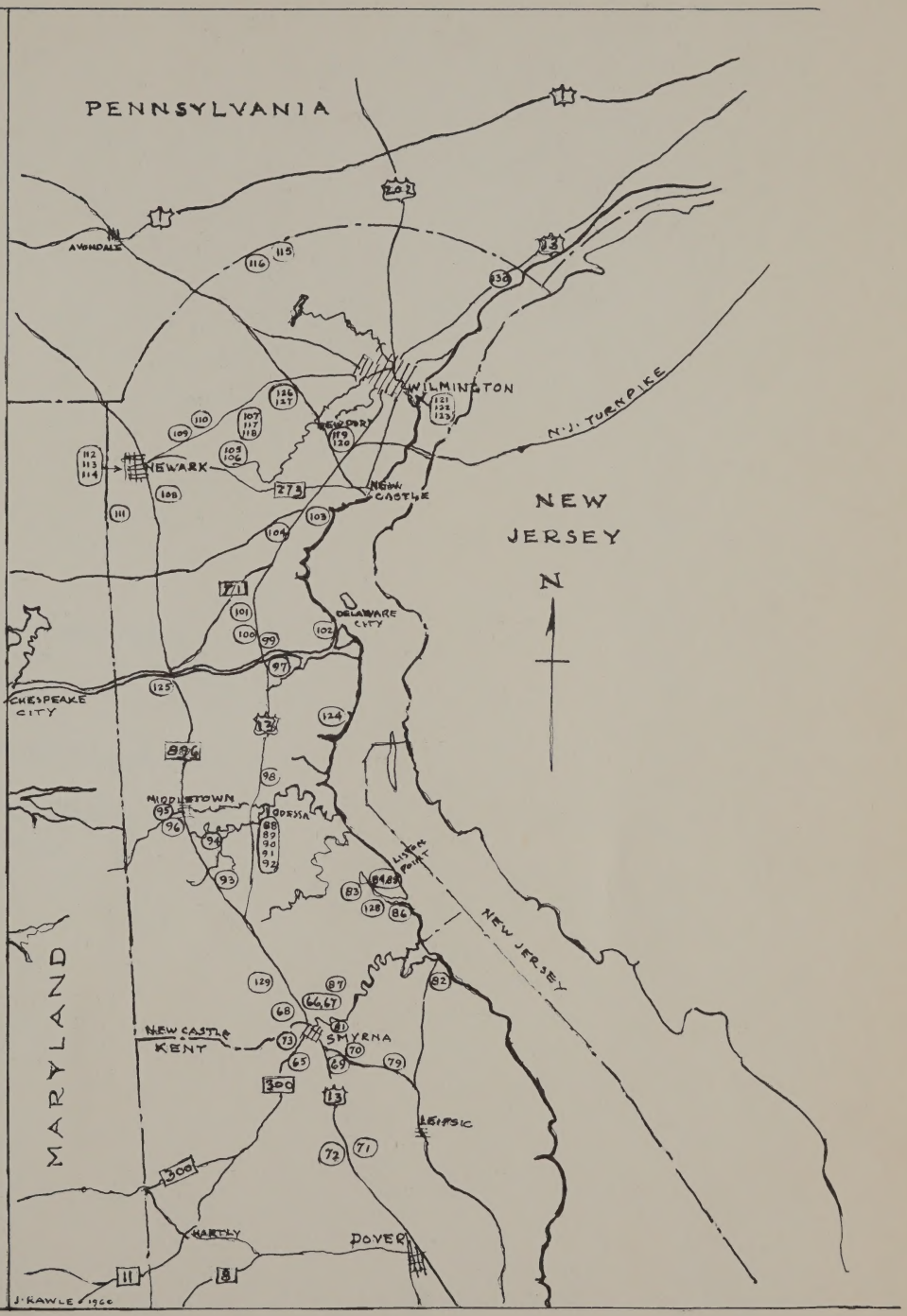
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Old State House, built 1787-1792 on the east side of historic Dover Green.

HISTORIC HOUSES AND BUILDINGS OF DELAWARE

by

HAROLD DONALDSON EBERLEIN

and

CORTLANDT V. D. HUBBARD

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HAROLD DONALDSON EBERLEIN

Harold Donaldson Eberlein, authority on architecture and design, antiques and interior decoration, is noted not only for his books, he is also in demand as a lecturer both in this country and in England. A bachelor of "thirty-two plus" Mr. Eberlein is a great traveller. He has as many friends in England, France and Italy as he has in America, and is equally at home in Philadelphia, London and Florence. Much of his time has been spent abroad, travelling and searching through England, France, and Italy in out-of-the-way districts as well as in the large centres, augmenting at first hand his already great knowledge of architecture, decoration, and the kindred arts. In addition to his books on antiques, decoration and architecture, Mr. Eberlein has written books of general interest, and has contributed articles to most of the well-known architecture and decoration magazines. Many of his books are used as texts and for reference purposes. For years he has been connected in the capacity of both critic and investigator with "The Architectural Forum," and "Architecture." Among his best-known works are "The Practical Book of American Antiques." "The Practical Book of Interior Decoration," "Little Known England," etc.

CORTLANDT VAN DYKE HUBBARD

Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, a product of Phillips Exeter Academy, graduated from Harvard with the class of 1934. He has been working in collaboration with Mr. Eberlein, on books and magazine articles, since 1935. In addition to his work with Mr. Eberlein, Mr. Hubbard is at present engaged in commercial and architectural photography.

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHORS

Diary of Independence Hall, 378 pp., 52 halftone illustrations. Philadelphia, 1948. (With full documentation.)

Portrait of a Colonial City: Philadelphia, 1670-1838, 7½″ x 11″, 580 pp., 252 halftone illustrations, 2 maps, 96 coats-of-arms. Philadelphia, 1939. (With full documentation.)

Historic Houses of the Hudson Valley (for the Hudson River Conservation Society), 9″ x 12″, 208 pp., 200 halftone plates, maps. New York, 1942.

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Dedicated to

MRS. WALTER S. CARPENTER, JR.

who had a deep appreciation
of the old houses and buildings
of her native Sussex County
and the Eastern Shore.

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AND

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FOREWORD

The Pyramids of Egypt and the funereal equipage recovered, Babylonian cuneiform tablets, the temples of Greece and Rome, cathedrals of Europe, Viking or Roman campsites of Britain or aboriginal artifacts recovered in the Americas, have all added greatly to man's search for further information about his forebears. The quest is greater than ever before with the corresponding result that more is known than heretofore. Historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, architects, archivists and librarians are busily engaged in collecting, classifying, indexing and evaluating the increasing amounts of materials and data being unearthed or disclosed. Previously, much of this effort was directed to vanished races or at the national levels. In more recent years, there has been a gratifying manifestation of interest and effort in the United States at the local levels.

In Delaware, manuscript and printed records, although they are not numerous, date back to the time of colonization by the Swedes and the Dutch. The archaeologists have been increasing our knowledge of the Indians who met the first settlers and recent excavations will disclose information of some who were here prior to the arrival of the white man. Equally important surviving artifacts of our forebears in Delaware are their houses and buildings. We are fortunate that a number of early and important ones have remained. There is, however, a continual threat to them in the name of "progress" and each year, additional old houses or buildings are destroyed by the bulldozer.

The surviving houses and buildings are important culturally and economically. They reveal the way our ancestors lived, the materials available for construction, their degree of craftsmanship, their station in life depending on the size and style of the structure and often their national origin as shown by the type of structure. These old houses and buildings of our forefathers, many of them with rich histories, are part of our cultural heritage and should not be lost to present or future generations. Those who went before us felt the obligation to maintain them for us; we should feel the same responsibility. As so many of the older structures along the Eastern Seaboard have disappeared, those that remain will be increasingly interesting with the passage of time. Visitors will be attracted to those remaining whether it be in Delaware or elsewhere.

It is unusual that in an area as small as the State of Delaware there should have been such diversity in architecture from colonial times to the early nineteenth century. The Swedes who settled in 1638 at present Wilmington, introduced the type of dwelling best known to them in their homeland. It was the one room loghouse. This type of easily constructed habitation was unknown in New England or the English colonies of the South. Successive waves of settlers from the Delaware River Valley area pushed west of the Appalachians and erected as they went the type of dwelling they knew best; the log cabin, which is found as far away as the West Coast. This major architectural contribution from Delaware is better known in the historical and political literature of the frontier than in the annals of its place of origin. Examples of the Swedish type log house are preserved at the Delaware State Museum in Dover and at Fort Christina Monument.

The next step in the development from the log house was the plank house. In this type of dwelling round logs were replaced by split, hewn or sawn planks which were often dovetailed at the ends instead of saddle notched and fitted much tighter than the round logs. In this kind of building can be seen the transition from the one-room Swedish log house to the one and two-story plank houses with enlarged floor plans. There are examples of the one-room plank houses preserved at the John Dickinson Mansion near Dover and at "The Lindens" at Duck Creek Cross Roads near Smyrna. Unfortunately, fine examples of two-story log and plank houses at Odessa and near Newark, Delaware, were torn down within the past ten years. Photographs of them are preserved in the State Archives at Dover.

Local historians and genealogists have long known that in addition to the colonists from Sweden, the Netherlands and the British Isles there were others coming in from New England, from Maryland and from the South through Accomac and the Virginia counties at the lower end of the Delmarva Peninsula.

Mr. Eberlein has shown very interestingly how some of these people brought with them from Maryland the half-timber construction gambrel-roofed house. This was a late-Medieval plan introduced from England by the colonists of the seventeenth century. Its large oblong room with a fireplace and closed stair, winding to bedrooms above, were characteristic features which are found in many of the early houses of lower Delaware. These and numerous other interesting features of the development of architecture in Delaware are ably pointed out in this volume by Mr. Eberlein and Mr. Hubbard. As a member of the Advisory Board of the Historic American Buildings Survey (Department of The Interior), he has designated the buildings in Sussex and Kent to be measured and documented by the National Park Service, the records to be preserved in the Library of Congress.

This book was inspired by a series of conversations between Mrs. Henry Ridgely, Mr. Donald V. L. Downs, Mr. Eberlein and the State Archivist. They were dismayed at the increasing number of old houses and buildings in the State being torn down and at others being neglected or abused, including the Old State House on historic Dover Green. It was thought that as it was not possible to save all of the old structures themselves, at least a record of them could be preserved for posterity. This volume does not presume to be a complete listing of all of the early architecture of the State through the period of the Civil War, but it does pertain to all representative types and plans. Drawing upon many years of experience as an architectural historian, Mr. Eberlein points out the characteristic features, good and bad, of existing buildings so that present and future generations may properly understand and evaluate the rich and significant architectural heritage which developed and existed here in Delaware. Mr. Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard has captured with the magic of his camera the interior and exterior views of many of these examples of early Delaware architecture. With the passage of time these may be the sole surviving records of some of these structures. Mr. Walter S. Carpenter, Jr., of Wilmington, recognized the cultural and educational value of this proposed volume and contributed the funds for its compilation and publication. We are indeed appreciative of his generosity in making the publication of this book possible.

The Public Archives Commission and the authors extend warmest thanks and appreciation to Mr. Donald Van Lear Downs for companionship and much thoughtful assistance during the field-work stage of preparation and to Mr. James Rawle, II, for making the end-paper maps indicating the whereabouts of the houses discussed in the text. We also wish to express our deep gratitude for much genealogical, biographical and other valuable historical material to Mrs. C. Raymond Cummins, Mr. G. Valentine Massey, II, Mrs. E. Cummins Speakman, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Wilson, Miss Gertrude Brincklé, Mrs. Hubert A. Jordan, Mrs. Henry duPont, Mrs. Elise duPont Elrick, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Laird, Jr., Mr. Joseph P. Monigle, Dr. Norman Wilkinson, Mr. Henry Belin duPont, Mrs. D. Anthony Potter and Mr. John A. H. Sweeney.

For many courtesies, helpful comments and items of information we wish to thank the personnel of the Historical Society of Delaware, Mr. R. N. Williams, 2nd, and the staff of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Mr. Charles E. Peterson and the staff of the National Park Service, Colonel and Mrs. Miodrag Blagojevich, Mr. and Mrs. William Bradford, Hon. C. Douglass Buck, Mrs. J. Wheeler Campbell, Colonel and Mrs. W. S. Corkran, Mr. Charles P. Culp and Mr. Charles P. Culp, Jr., Miss Virginia Daiker of the Library of Congress, Mr. Henry Chandlee Forman, Mr. Anthony Higgins, Dr. Richard Hubbard Howland, Mr. Albert Kruse, Mrs. Philip Dandridge Laird, Dr. and Mrs. H. T. Maguire, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas McIntire, Hon. Hugh M. Morris, Mrs. Paul Nowland, Hon. Harold W .T. Purnell, Mrs. C. Lee Reese, Jr., Rev. James O. Reynolds, Hon. Richard S. Rodney, Mrs. Laussat R. Rogers, Mr. H. Rodney Sharp and Mr. Mangum Weeks.

Mrs. Jessie W. Butler, Mrs. Nancy L. Morton and Miss Virginia E. Shaw of the Public Archives Commission staff have been most helpful in the preparation of this volume for the printer, the compilation of the index, and the verification of certain historical data. We also appreciate the efforts of Mr. William Talarowski who, representing the printer, was most helpful to us with technicalities.

Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware

Leon deValinger, Jr.
State Archivist

DELAWARE ARCHITECTURE IN THREE CENTURIES

The early architecture of Delaware, both domestic and public, is exceptionally varied in character. Three things account for this agreeable diversity.

To begin with, Delaware is just at the dividing line between North and South. Influences from both sides found expression here or there, at one time or another.

In the second place, Swedes, Dutch, English, Scots-Irish and Welsh, with a small sprinkling of French Huguenots, all had a hand in the colonising and peopling of Delaware. Each body of them has left some unmistakable mark on the architectural sum total. If John Stalcop and his contemporaries contributed log dwellings and blockhouses of sturdy stone masonry and Lindeström devised a chequer-board street plan for Wilmington while it was still Fort Christina, long before either Charleston or Philadelphia had been laid out, the Welsh likewise, in Pencader Hundred and thereabouts, gave a Cambrian touch to their stone buildings. Samuel Dickinson brought the Maryland plantation house into Kent County, and Parson Thorne had his little fling at Virginia Palladianism at Milford.

Last of all, as an important factor contributory to Delaware's architectural diversity, is the topography of the State: hilly in the north, gently undulating in the middle, and flat in the south.

In the hill country of the north, where abundant stone is readily available, stone is a common building material; likewise, a good deal of brick, for there is plenty of suitable clay and good bricks have been made from early times especially at New Castle from the middle of the seventeenth century.

In the middle, where there is no quarryable stone but plenty of good clay, brick is the most favoured building material. Stone structure in Kent occurs only near navigable streams where shallops could unload ballast.

In the flat and sandy south, where there is no building stone and little clay suitable for brick-making, wooden construction prevails. It is the land where bald-cypress or cedar shingles form the sheathing over frame structures. And under this sheathing one can often find traditional half-timber construction with substantial soft-brick or clay nogging between studs and braces.

From 1638 to the years immediately following the War Between the States, examples of every recognised phase of domestic architecture can be found at one place or another in Delaware.

This book deals with the historic houses, churches and other buildings of Delaware. Too often, when we speak of "historic" houses we have in mind only those that are memorable because of the people who have built, owned or lived in them, or because incidents of historic import have occurred within their walls, for instance, Mount Vernon and its associations with General Washington; or The Octagon, in Washington City, where the Treaty of Ghent was signed. Frequently we overlook the historic character and import of dwellings not in the preceding category. We think of them as merely "old houses," of no particular significance.

This is an unfortunate mistake in judgement. An eighteenth-century farmhouse, perhaps, once lived-in by now-nameless and forgotten folk so far as the present generation is aware, has nevertheless a definite historic import. It, along with its outbuildings, were all parts of the everyday machinery of living. They furnish an insight to the cultural life of the community and of the period in which they were built. They are an invaluable index to the social life of their day. If we wish to have a true conception of past values, and of their impact upon the present, we cannot afford to ignore these visible witnesses to a bygone pattern of life.

Fortunately, the United States Government, in its aim to preserve an adequate record of the American cultural background, through the Historic American Buildings Survey (National Park Service), is taking account of many representative structures entirely outside the first-mentioned category, and is having them measured, photographed and documented. The records are kept in the Library of Congress.

In southern Delaware, the early architectural inspiration came up from Maryland and spread northward through Kent County. There are, indeed, sundry evidences of traditional Maryland type in New Castle County.

In Sussex, many of the earliest landholders had come from Maryland and held their properties on patents issued by Lord Baltimore. As a matter of fact, the whole lower part of Sussex was claimed by Maryland and it was not until long after the Duke of York had conceded the proprietary rights over the Three Lower Counties to William Penn that the boundaries between Sussex and Maryland were definitely drawn, in some sections not until 1775. This, of course, caused an almost hopeless confusion in land titles.

It should be borne in mind that when King Charles II, in March, 1681, granted Pennsylvania as a Proprietary Province to William Penn, the grant did not include the Three Lower Counties on Delaware. Title thereto, by a previous grant, was vested in the Duke of York. It was not until October 28, 1682, at New Castle, after separate negotiations with the Duke of York, that Penn took title to the Three Lower Counties as a separate entity. Delaware was never a part of Pennsylvania. It was a territory of much earlier colonisation and, despite efforts at first to treat it as an integral part of Pennsylvania, it always retained its own identity. The Three Lower Counties never accepted control by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly and, from 1704 onward to the Revolution, although presided over by the same Lieutenant-Governour as Pennsylvania, Delaware had its own independent government. Thanks to Caesar Rodney's famous ride, Delaware cast an affirmative vote for the Declaration of Independence. After the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Delaware became the first State of the United States, on December 7th of that year.

Even after Penn on his arrival took over the government, Marylanders continued to settle in Sussex and were often encouraged to do so by officials under Lord Baltimore. Many of Delaware's most worthwhile citizens have come from Maryland families that settled in early Sussex, either under the Duke of York's Government or, later, under the Penn régime.

Two of the old Sussex churches were first established as chapels-of-ease to churches in Maryland, Prince George's Chapel, in Dagsborough Hundred, as a chapel-of-ease to St. Martin's Church at Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland; and Christ Church, Broad Creek Hundred, built in 1771 as a chapel of Stepney parish. Christ Church is virtually a replica in heart-pine planks of the brick Stepney parish church.

The only two really old brick houses in Sussex were built of bricks evidently brought from Maryland. One was standing in 1717, though probably built earlier; the other was built about 1711. One was built by a Maryland family; the other in all likelihood was also. Good bricks cannot be made of the southern Sussex clay; there is too much sand in it. They would not stand the weather. They are fit only for brick nogging where they are protected by weatherboarding or shingles.

Suitable brick clay was eventually found in the neighbourhood of Milford, but that was not till about the middle of the eighteenth century. Even after that, wooden construction continued to prevail in Sussex.

In both of the early instances mentioned, the houses stood close to navigable streams extending into Maryland or readily accessible therefrom. One house stood close by the banks of Indian River. The other was equally close to the Nanticoke. To both sites Maryland bricks could easily be brought by water.

Under the circumstances, it was but natural that early Sussex should follow Maryland precedents. A striking example of Maryland inspiration in architecture is to be seen in the case of White Meadow Farm, at Cool Spring about six miles west of Lewes. The gambrel-roofed house on White Meadow Farm, of half-timber construction nogged with brick, we know from deeds was standing in 1736, when Joshua Fisher sold it to James Martin. It is likely that Joshua Fisher built it at some time between 1728 and the date of sale. The immediately significant thing about this house is its plan, a late-Mediaeval plan brought from England by the early seventeenth-century colonists of Virginia and Maryland. The essential features of this elemental plan are: (a) one large oblong room, (b) a fireplace, (c) a closed stair, winding up beside the fireplace to the one or two bedrooms above.

When additions were made, the addition (1) might be another room at the end of the "great room" opposite the fireplace, and the "added" room usually had a fireplace facing toward the first; (2) a second "added" room might open from one side of the "great room"; or (3) it might be placed at the fireplace end of the "great room," with a doorway opening into it between the fireplace and the closed-in winding stair of the "great room." But the essential thing was that the "great room" with fireplace and winding stair,

whatever "added" rooms there might be, was the fundamental core or root of the house, from which all else grew.

These early one-room houses, built in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, were of the one-storey-and-attic type. They were typical in Virginia and Maryland, and recall Mediaeval precedent, as well they may, built as they were by artisans who had learned their trades "under men imbued with what was left of the Mediaeval spirit," a set of men whose ideas change slowly.

A number of good examples still remain, as the Brinson house, on Fresh Pond, and Eastwood, both in Princess Anne County, or Mattasippi, in Accomac County, in Virginia. And in Maryland there are sundry more, of which the best, perhaps, is Resurrection Manor, in St. Mary's County.

Resurrection Manor is taken as a representative example because, by great good fortune, it has remained in its original condition, and because all the data respecting it are available. Thomas Cornwaleys built the "great room" end of the house in 1652-3, the "added" room in 1654. It is even a matter of record how many bricks he bought and when they were delivered.

The first-built part of the house at White Meadow Farm consisted of one "great room" with two bedrooms above, as at Resurrection Manor. The later addition, though early, was clumsily contrived, but the precedent for the first-built part came unmistakably from Maryland.

The "Resurrection Manor plan," repeatedly mentioned thus in the following pages, appears in early houses throughout Sussex and Kent and, in a few cases, in the southern part of New Castle County. It continued in favour till about the middle of the eighteenth century, occasionally it appeared even later. As people increasingly desired more commodious dwellings, there were modifications and adaptations, but the basic Resurrection Manor element always remained plainly traceable. It is worth noting also that long before Georgian ideas affected plan, Georgian panelling adorned rooms disposed according to early Maryland and Sussex precedent.

In following the story of domestic architecture in Delaware, two other factors must be taken into account: Swedish log structure and the so-called "Quaker plan." The former left less permanent impress on Delaware's domestic architecture than might have been expected. The latter was a rather nebulous affair to begin with, and its effects were not far-reaching.

The first Swedish colonists built their cabins of logs from which they had peeled off the bark. These they laid horizontally. The chinks between the logs they pugged with clay, often with moss, chopped straw, or gallets mixed in it. At the corners of the cabins, they saddle-notched the logs with rounded cuts hewn out by adze. The ends of the logs projected beyond the corners of the building, thus affording additional stability. When Dankaerts and Sluyter travelled through Delaware in 1679, Dankaerts described one of these earliest-type log houses:

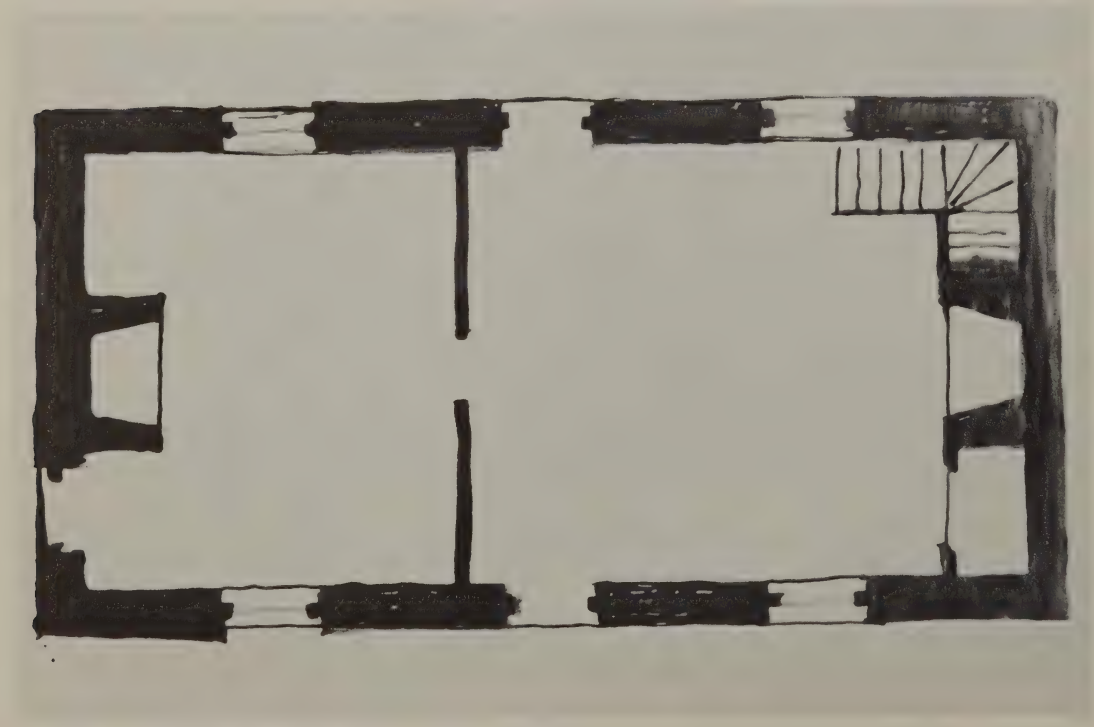
> "The house although not much larger than where we spent the last night, was somewhat better and tighter, being made according to the Swedish mode, and as they usually build their houses here, which are blockhouses, or houses of hewn logs being nothing else than entire trees, split through the middle or somewhat squared out of the rough, these trees are laid in the form of a square upon each other as high as they wish to have the house, the ends of these timbers are let into each other, about a foot from the ends of them. So stands the whole building without nail or spike, the ceiling and the roof do not show much finer work, except among the most particular who also have all the ceiling planked and also a glass window. The doors are wide enough but very low, so that everyone must stoop to enter in, always these houses are tight and warm, but the chimney stands in the corner."

As soon as saw-mills were set up, the colonists could saw the logs into planks. Planks laid horizontally like logs made a tighter structure and did not need so much clay pugging, if any. At the corners, the planks were dovetailed, instead of being saddle-notched, and fitted together, and the ends did not project. Plank houses were often weatherboarded on the outside, instead of having any chinks stopped with plaster. Gable ends, from the plate up, were weatherboarded.

Dankaerts mentions the chimney standing in the corner as a characteristic of the log houses in New



Front view of Resurrection Manor, St. Mary's County, Maryland.



Ground floor plan of Resurrection Manor.

Sweden. The Swedes seem to have been partial to this arrangement in the mother country, and they perpetuated the usage in New Sweden. Sometimes the fireplace faced directly into the room, sometimes it was set at an angle across the corner. If the cabin had two rooms, the latter arrangement was useful since it could provide two fireplaces with only one chimney. In any case, the corner fireplace was definitely characteristic in New Sweden.

Swedish architectural practice, or methods derived from it, did not extend much south of Dover. Most of the traces of Swedish architectural practice are to be found in New Castle County, where the Swedish element, and people of Swedish descent, are most in evidence. This type of early habitation did, however, spread throughout the Delaware River Valley and was used by subsequent migrations of settlers, west of the mountains and eventually as far as the West Coast.

At Duck Creek Cross Roads, in Kent County, are some small weatherboarded houses later occupied by coloured farm labourers. They are in poor condition, as might be expected of houses whose tenants took no pride in their dwellings. When these houses have been repaired, underneath the weatherboarding they reveal sound plank construction in the Swedish manner. One of these has recently been moved by the Delaware State Museum with the help of the State Highway Department and re-erected on the grounds of The Lindens at Duck Creek Cross Roads.

In the same general territory are quite a few other weatherboard-covered plank houses of the same sort, all in the same sorry condition. There are also thereabouts log houses encased in a coat of weatherboards, which conceal their real character. One of these log houses, a very early one with saddle-notching, has been rescued and safely installed in the Delaware State Museum in Dover, where every particular of Swedish log house construction can be studied.

What appears to have happened to some of the early log or plank houses was that they were weatherboarded and became frame wings to brick or frame enlargements, both the later and the earlier structures being on the same axis. A good example of this is the Alrichs house at the Marine Terminal in Wilmington.

The subsequent construction of frame wings on the same axis with the main body of the house may have arisen from this earlier manner of "enlargement." This usage, and the comparative frequency of angle fireplaces, are about the only perceptible traces of Swedish architectural influence one can point to. When the Swedes set their hands to stone masonry, they made a good job of it, witness the little stone blockhouse at Naaman's built in 1654, and Old Swedes Church in Wilmington. But these are not examples of domestic building.

The "Quaker plan" which Thomas Tileston Waterman so extols in his *Dwellings of Colonial America,* was recommended by William Penn, in 1684, in a brochure he put forth to promote colonisation in Pennsylvania. It was entitled *Information and Directions to Such Persons as are inclined to America, more Especially Those related to the Province of Pennsylvania.*

Penn was an astute and persistent advertiser. This brochure, setting forth the manifold attractions and advantages of life in Pennsylvania, was industriously circulated not only in England but also in translations for Continental consumption. Climate, fertility and abundance of land, the varied opportunities of making a good living, and the like are all duly enlarged upon. And along with the other advice proffered intending settlers is a suggestion anent house-building. Penn advised:

> "build then, a House of thirty foot long and eighteen broad, with a partition neer the middle, an other to divide one end of the house into two small Rooms . . ."

Waterman opines that Penn fathered this "Quaker plan" pursuant to what he had seen of Swedish building on his arrival here in 1682. Waterman also feels that the "Quaker plan" was widely followed in territory where Quakers settled in considerable numbers. However that may be elsewhere, in the Three Lower Counties on Delaware Penn's advice to house-builders had little appreciable effect, like some of his other recommendations that went unheeded.

Both before and after the advent of Georgian ideas of symmetrical arrangement, Quakers and "World's People" alike seemed to prefer sticking to the traditional "Resurrection Manor plan," with such enlarge-



Swedish type log house from New Castle County near State Road. now in the Delaware State Museum. Dover.



Thomas Maull House, Lewes, "Great Room" showing bottom of closed winding stair beside fireplace.

ments or adaptations as seemed necessary to the requirements of a comfortable dwelling. One very substantial brick house, adorned with Georgian woodwork and panelling, built by a Quaker family after 1780, followed the "Resurrection Manor plan," with only a second "added" room by way of variation from the early Maryland precedent, and it was not an isolated instance.

Among old Delaware houses, there are only two or three that can be cited as really exemplifying the "Quaker plan." The best instance of it is Aspendale, near Kenton, in Kent County.

Incident to the advent of Georgian practice, it is worth noting that Georgian panelling was used for the interior embellishment of houses of late-Mediaeval provenance long before Georgian structural evidences became apparent.

Inseparably associated with the gradual assimilation of Georgian principles is the orderly genesis of the stair as the spine of the house. This genesis could not be more clearly illustrated anywhere than in the domestic architecture of Delaware. Step by step, we have every stage of the progress illustrated by examples still available for comparison.

Following late-Mediaeval precedent of the latter part of the seventeenth century, at first the few wiggling vertebrae (steps), closed off by a door, managed to achieve a steep winding ascent to an upper storey within a curve of 180 degrees. There might be one or two steps on the ground floor below the cill of the stair-door, though not always, see the Maull House. Next came a gradual extension of the steps before the stair-door, so as to make the steps beyond the door less precipitous within the 180-degree turn. Then came a gradual straightening of the climb by making 3 straight flights (closing door still used part way up first flight) with rectangular landings, to complete the 180-degree turn. The vertebral column had gotten perceptibly stiffer. Finally, under increasing Georgian influence, came the wholly open stair, with straight flights, standing in a hall recognised as a distinct part of the house plan. The spine was complete.

The Georgian spirit was somewhat slow in taking hold in the Three Lower Counties. Rosemont, in North Laurel, built about the middle of the eighteenth century or, more likely, a little before that, was one of the first Georgian houses, if not indeed the first, in Sussex. The brick Georgian house at South Milford, designed for Levin Crapper by the English architect Mitchell, was not built till 1763, the same house that afterwards suffered a Greek-Revival metamorphosis under Peter Causey.

With regard to the several successive phases of Georgian expression, both chronologically and locally the distribution was irregular and rather mixed-up. The small Hart house in Lower New Castle County, built in 1725, has, curiously enough, a typical "Resurrection Manor plan" interior, but the exterior is distinctly Queen Anne-Early Georgian, that is segmental-arched windows, overdoor transom, and belt course stepped at the corners. Only a few miles distant are houses, built not much later, that are Middle Georgian in every particular.

In New Castle, the Booth house, built about 1720, is unquestionably of Queen Anne-Early Georgian manner. And yet, less than four miles away on the River Road, the part of Mansion Farm built by Colonel Porter in 1750, while it has exquisite Middle Georgian woodwork inside, has an exterior that is more than merely reminiscent of Queen Anne-Early Georgian character, namely segmental arches, penthouse, coved cornice and overdoor transom.

At one place or another, the Three Lower Counties can show examples representing every phase of Georgian expression, from the robust vigour that marked the work of the first decades in the eighteenth century to the sophisticated subtlety that appeared in the early decades of the nineteenth century at the end of the Georgian Age, that short-lived heydey of the Graeco-Roman, Federal or Regency manner.

Two things must be pointed out in connection with Delaware Georgian houses. First, is the very considerable number of five-bay houses of single-room depth. Pleasanton Abbey and the Wilson house at Odessa are good examples; also, the original brick house at Morris Rambles, now Woodlawn.

A liking for single-room depth in the main body of the house is attributable to climate. In warm weather, it assured full circulation of whatever air was stirring. A two-room depth would have made the house much warmer.

The other peculiarity of Delaware Georgian domestic architecture to be taken into account is the type that might be called "Quaker Georgian." Glynrich, in the southern part of Wilmington, built in 1765, is an illuminating example. By the middle of the eighteenth century most of the English-speaking world had agreed that the familiar type of five-bay house with central hall was conducive to comfort and convenience, and a desirable item in the machinery of living. The Quakers, no less than "World's People," recognised the merits of this type.

By the middle of the eighteenth century, however, the Quaker cult of austerity (which had begun about 1720) was increasing. In their architectural expressions they readily accepted the utilitarian, but they were "principled" against the contemporary Georgian graces and amenities that "World's People" approved and employed. They would have naught to do with Palladian gewgaws. They were strict functionalists, at least so far as exteriors were concerned.

Such fundamental factors as plan, dimensions and structural methods they approved, but upon such structural non-essentials as fanlights, pediments, engaged columns, ornate pilasters, belt courses and decorative cornices they frowned. Insistence upon exterior plainness did not deter them from having much excellent panelling inside their houses. They accepted the current mode, but forbore elaboration.

Delaware is fortunate in possessing exceptional examples of Regency design in Swanwyck, Louviers and the Academy of Medicine (old Bank of Delaware) in Wilmington. That versatile French refugee, Pierre Bauduy, designed Swanwyck and the old Bank of Delaware. Eleuthère Irénée duPont designed Louviers. Tradition says he submitted the plans to Thomas Jefferson for criticism and advice. Jefferson gave them his blessing. Too many people habitually ignore the Regency era and act as though architecture took a kangaroo leap from the Adam Brothers' Neo-Classic into Greek-Revival, without any intervening stage. They apparently like to classify Regency creations as Greek-Revival, which they definitely are not.

Besides the outstanding examples of Regency design above mentioned, there were the brick three-bay "simplified Regency" houses to be seen at New Castle and elsewhere throughout Delaware. Not a few people are apt to claim them as products of the Greek-Revival, when there is nothing Greek-Revival about them. They point to the square blocks with roundels, at the ends of lintols and on door trims, in support of their contention. As a matter of fact, the Greek-Revivalists appropriated the square blocks with roundels for their own repertoire from Regency usage. The square blocks with roundels were in regular Regency use a full decade and more before the Greek-Revival was ever heard of.

In nineteenth-century America the Greek-Revival was an episode fraught with much of the emotional quality its name implies. Its visible effects were not limited to architectural design, for dress, personal appearance, furniture and sundry other reflecting facets of social life, all felt the impact of this new enthusiasm. Towns and villages, right and left, were re-named for Greek cities and towns until, in some places, the local nomenclature was wholly derived from Classic Greece.

In their laudable political sympathy for the Greeks, in the first decades of the nineteenth century, Americans in untold numbers went off at half-cock and hastily worked up a burning zeal to imitate the architecture of the ancient Greeks. This impulse had the support of popular fashion, too, to which Americans have so generally been sensitive.

It is unfortunate that, in their headlong enthusiasm, they didn't stop to consider every aspect of the architectural situation. They failed, for the most part, to grasp the inherent difference between monumental and domestic architecture. Admiration for such truly noble modern examples of Greek architecture as Girard College, in Philadelphia, or the front and back of the old Second Bank of the United States (the sides and interior are Graeco-Roman or Regency), blinded them to the fact that monumental architecture is not suited to ordinary domestic application.

They ignored the fact that the Greeks didn't live in temple-fronted houses; that they kept their heroic-scaled architecture for temples and public monuments, and showed their good common-sense by dwelling in domiciles whose proportions were suited to the measure of the human frame.

They likewise ignored the fact that when the Italians of Imperial Rome erected their famous villas,

after their wholesale assimilation of Greek architectural features, they kept columns, porticos, pediments and other items of Greek temple derivation in a scale commensurate with human habitation.

Impelled, it would seem, by half-baked enthusiasm, the Temple-fronting zealots chose to confine themselves, and everybody else, in a strait-jacket of rigid rectilinearity. Their one-sided obsession became actually a mania, a mischievous disorder for which an appropriate name is Greek-Revivalitis.

The "Temple-fronters" were apparently oblivious of what Thomas Jefferson and his contemporaries had already done, like the old Romans, in reconciling colonnaded architecture with domestic requirements. In true Graeco-Roman or Federal spirit, they had preserved the grace and dignity of arched and other curvilinear forms along with columns and pediments. Thomas Jefferson was not a Greek-Revivalist; he was a convinced exponent of the Graeco-Roman or Federal manner.

Had nineteenth-century Americans been in less haste to abandon the Regency (Graeco-Roman or Federal) manner, they could have gratified to the full their penchant for columns, porticos and other Classic properties without doing violence to the fundamental principles of scale.

In the discussion of Woodlawn so much has been said about the employment of Greek-Revival design in domestic architecture that it would be needlessly repetitious to discuss it here. It only remains to point out that in several instances, Buena Vista and the Upper House at Louviers, the architect has made effective use of Greek-Revival inspiration after logically digesting and adapting it to domestic purposes.

The "romantic" types of domestic architecture that followed the Greek-Revival episode are of only sporadic occurrence in Delaware, but to understand their presence some further consideration of "romanticism" is pertinent. Sparked in the first instance by Sir Walter Scott's novels, in the "40's" a powerful wave of romanticism had spread over both England and America. It took visible shape in the multitude of Gothic, or supposedly Gothic, buildings, both domestic and otherwise, rising on both sides of the Atlantic. Gothic admiration was soon to be joined by an ardent devotion to styles supposedly Italian.

In 1842, John Notman had taken his fling at "Victorian Cottage Gothick" in the addition to Boothhurst. In 1847, he was busy completing The Athenaeum in Philadelphia in the Italian *palazzo* manner. And the Italian manner both *palazzo* and *villa*, was taking an ever stronger hold on the imagination of the American public.

The "Italian Villa" enthusiasm soon evolved into two wholly different forms of expression, both designated as representing the "Italian Villa Style." The proponents of the first surrendered without reserve to the fashionable, all pervading impulse of romanticism and produced creations of maddening complexity. In the words of Samuel Sloan, one of Notman's contemporaries:

> "Most generally Italian Villas have an irregular outline from every point of view . . . The predominant figure is the rectangle, but many being introduced and so disposed as to break in upon each other, the irregular outline is formed without difficulty." Roofs of low pitch are desirable, but prominent chimneys, treated as architectural features, give pleasant "variety to the outline." Widely projecting cornices resting on moulded brackets, balustraded balconies, porches of masonry, wood and iron, all serve to enliven the silhouette of the house. Windows vary in size and type, and are used singly or in groups of two or three. "A most prominent and an almost universal feature is the square tower. It overlooks all parts of the house, and has balconies, and other ornamental features, which give it grace and finish."

The fantastic jumble thus presented as a typical "Italian Villa" had no prototype amongst the villas of Italy.

It was the figment of imaginative wishful thinking, proposed to the American public as a desideratum. It may, possibly, have had some approximate prototype in one of the late Baroque or Rococo confections set up in the nineteenth century, in the Italian Lake district, by sentimental non-Italian plutocrats. It was the very sort of thing that romanticist collectors of architectural "prettinesses" (without being too particular about the source) had induced British romanticists to label "Italian Villa."

Once the idea got started in England, it soon found its way to America. One result of its reaching this

side of the water can be seen in the house Governor Ross built at Seaford. In 1847, John Notman built Dunleith on the River Road between New Castle and Wilmington.

From the fourteenth century onward the "Italian Villa" was a straightforward structure, simple in the employment of its masses and reticent in the use of external embellishment. Architectural decoration was usually reserved for windows and doorways. "Widely projecting cornices resting on moulded brackets" were virtually non-existent; without cornices, eaves projected over the walls. "Irregular outline" was not a characteristic. The "rectangle" may have been the "predominant feature," but to say that many rectangles were "introduced and so disposed as to break in upon each other" is an unwarranted flight of imagination. The "square tower," it is true, was often a prominent feature, but it was always extremely plain, and was often a relic of the days when it was needed for defence.

Even the more ornate villas of the Veneto, designed by Palladio and his successors, are simplicity itself compared to the structural hodge-podge so be-praised by Mr. Sloan.

The other type of "Italian Villa" design that evolved from the wave of romanticism was a foursquare structure of three full storeys, nearly flat roof, projecting eaves, and a verandah across the front, or across front and sides, with full length windows on the ground floor; a well-mannered creation, comfortable to live in, but somewhat monotonous.

It is of interest to note that the story of domestic architecture in Delaware begins with the now nameless master-builder, goes on to the master-builder and the owner of the house working together, proceeds to the house-owner taking the lead and directing the master-builder, and ends with the emergence of the individual architect.

What took place in either domestic or public architecture in the period after the War Between the States has no place in this book. The Middle and Late Victorian inanities and affectations are not within its scope.

Within present limits it is impossible to illustrate fully all Delaware houses and other buildings that merit full illustration on architectural or historical grounds, or both. It is equally impossible to give full textual discussion in every case. Where neither illustration nor textual notice can be given, structures that deserve recording are listed and located.

As this book goes to press, it is gratifying to note throughout the country the growing number of history-conscious and history-minded people to whom the architecture of former times makes a strong appeal. Let us hope the following pages and illustrations may stimulate appreciation of Delaware's architectural heritage, some of which has disappeared, some in danger of disappearing, and prompt further undertakings of restoration and preservation.

SUSSEX COUNTY



The Homestead, Henlopen Acres. Rehoboth. West front, showing original wing to right of main house.



Panelled partition in the study, The Homestead. This woodwork was retrieved from an old house at Morristown, N. J.

THE HOMESTEAD

Rehoboth, Henlopen Acres

The ill-starred De Vries settlement of 1631; Captain Kidd openly and peaceably trafficking with the inhabitants in the streets of Lewes; Commodore Beresford's two-days' bombardment of Lewes, when the town's casualties were "one chicken killed; one pig wounded, leg broken"; these inevitably come to mind when one thinks of Cape Henlopen and the land thereabouts.

Pirates were no strangers in Delaware Bay, and the sand dunes around Cape Henlopen offered suitable lonely spots in which to bury treasure, assets that could not be entrusted to authorised depositories, had there been any such. That the sand dunes at one time or another served as "pirate banks" there can be little doubt. Stories of buried pirate treasure are innumerable. Where there is so much "smoke" there must have been some "fire."

The repute of gold buried in the dunes is closely related to the beginnings of The Homestead. Tradition says that Peter Marsh built his house at Rehoboth Neck to be near the pirate gold he thought was buried in the nearby dunes.

In 1742, "Peter Marsh, yeoman" bought from "Richard Hinman, Gen." the tract of land called Young's Hope Patent, on Rehoboth Neck, to build upon it an house called in the old records "the Mansion House of the Plantation."

The Homestead, as it stands to-day, is thoroughly typical of early Sussex domestic architecture, frame dwellings covered with the long, bald-cypress shingles, unpainted and weathered to a silver grey. On too many of the old Sussex houses, unfortunately, the shingles have now either been painted, in a fit of modernisation, or else replaced by some commercial product of different dimensions and wholly different surface.

The main block of the structure and the low kitchen wing form the original house. The two-storey wing is modern, added about thirty years ago to provide a new kitchen and servants' quarters, when the present owners rescued the place from an apparently ruinous state. Rescue was an act of faith and vision. The six rooms of the old house were sheltering two families, fourteen human beings in all, existing (it could hardly be called living) in abject squalour.

In shingling the new service wing, old hand-riven cypress shingles, forty inches long, were obtained from a building of like age that had just been demolished. Also, to replace the badly splintered downstairs floor boards in the old house, the upstairs floor boards were secured from a pre-Revolutionary house then being torn down.

Nearly two hundred years old at the time of its "rescue" thirty years ago, The Homestead was structurally sound. Of half-timber construction with brick nogging, the cills, posts, studs and braces of black walnut, instead of the more usual oak, were as sound as the day they were set in place. Black walnut, it seems, does not harbour termites. The panelling and other interior woodwork is also of black walnut. However visionary he may have been in his dreams of pirate gold, when it came to building, Peter Marsh was level-headed. He built exceedingly well.

The two downstairs rooms, and the two rooms above them, have each a corner fireplace, all four fireplaces opening into the one big chimney. And all four angle chimney breasts have excellent panelling. Curiously enough, each downstairs room has a winding enclosed corner stair to the room above it.

In restoring the house, when the new service wing was added, the old kitchen in the low wing was made into a large office or sitting-room. Some previous owner had demolished the original generous fireplace and Dutch oven, and substituted a small inadequate opening and stove. This profanation the present owners replaced by an opening and chimney-piece of decent proportions. At the opposite end of the room they installed a partition, consisting of panelling and a round-headed door retrieved from the wrecking of an inn at Morristown, New Jersey, once frequented by General Washington and his officers in the Continental Army. Panelling and door harmonise with the other interior woodwork of The Homestead. It was a praiseworthy act to save them from the axe and crowbar of the house-wrecker.



White House Farm showing west end. A small burial plot is just within the fence.

The partition thus introduced creates an hall from the house-door. One side of this little hall displays an inner section of the half-timber walls of the main block of the house; timbers, braces and brick nogging are visible, minus the clapboards and shingles that still cover the rest of the walls outdoors.

Col. and Mrs. Wilbur S. Corkran, the present owners who saved The Homestead from becoming a sorry derelict, have patiently and conscientiously restored its pristine values, both within and without. At the same time, they added the graces of sympathetic planting in a kindly climate.

No house could better exemplify the architectural practice and traditions of early Sussex, a region pre-eminently dependent upon wooden structure.

WHITE HOUSE FARM

Long Neck, Indian River Hundred

The White House, as it is called, is an early eighteenth-century one-storey-and-attic brick structure of the seventeenth-century Maryland type, of which Resurrection Manor in St. Mary's County is, perhaps, the best example. White House Farm house is one of the very few old brick dwellings in southern Sussex.

The land now included in White House Farm is part of a tract granted to William Burton in 1677, while Sir Edmund Andros was Governour, under the Duke of York's Government. A marker (near an old burial plot for the slaves) at the entrance to the driveway reads:

> "White House Farm on Septembr 29, 1677, for ten bushels of good spring wheat William Burton received from the King this plantation consisting then of 2000 acres. His son Woolsey Burton built the White House and his grave there is dated 1730. Numerous slaves are buried inside this enclosure."

Woolsey Burton's grave, mentioned in the marker, is in a little walled enclosure only a few feet from the west wall of the house. The enclosure is scarcely large enough to hold four graves. The Burtons were a prolific family and a number of them have become prominent in State affairs. At the outbreak of the War Between the States, Dr. William Burton was the thirty-ninth Governor of Delaware and served from 1859 to 1863.

The house has been continuously occupied by descendants of the original grantee. It is generally considered that Woolsey Burton built the house in 1717, although some records seem to indicate that John Burton built it about 1700. The exterior evidence of the brick walls would fit either date.

The Burtons came from Accomac County, in Virginia. Quite naturally, they followed the Virginia building pattern familiar to them, including bricks for the walls. As the Flemish-bond brickwork plainly shows, there were originally two arch-headed doorways on both the north and south sides. A single doorway was later cut in the middle of each of these walls, and the arch-headed doorways were bricked up.

The bricks, in all likelihood, came from either Maryland or Virginia. In either case transportation by water would have been easy, for the house stands on the banks of Indian River. The bricks could not have been made on the spot, as they were in frequent instances elsewhere, for the clay in southern Sussex is too sandy to make durable bricks.

It is impossible to say anything with certainty about the original interior arrangement of the house. Unfortunately it was gutted by fire in 1934 and then rebuilt within the old sturdy brick walls. Even before then, drastic alterations had been made to accommodate the separate housekeeping arrangements of joint occupants who had been willed rights to live independently in parts of the house.

Nevertheless, with only the outer walls now able to bear their testimony, White House Farm, as one of the earliest brick dwellings in Sussex County, throws important light on the cultural background of southern Delaware.



Exterior of Prince George's Chapel, Dagsboro.



Prince George's Chapel, Dagsboro. A few of the original box-pews remain at the ends of the aisles.

PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPEL

On the outskirts of Dagsboro, Dagsboro Hundred

Prince George's Chapel, just outside Dagsboro, has been called "one of the most beloved old country churches of Delaware." This affectionate designation is well deserved, both because of the many associations clustered about the old building and also because of the character the structure itself presents to anyone who has the least appreciation of the sterling qualities of eighteenth-century architecture.

In August, 1717, the Reverend George Ross of New Castle, as a missionary of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, accompanied the newly-appointed Lieutenant-Governour, Sir William Keith, on his tour of inspection through the Three Lower Counties.

Visiting Lewes, Parson Ross notes in his *Journal,*

> "there were two houses of worship in the vicinity, one sixteen miles from Lewes, and one in the upper part of the county not yet finished."

The one "not yet finished" was evidently St. Matthew's in Cedar Creek Hundred. He goes on to say of the chapel "about sixteen miles from Lewes":

> "It is a small frame building erected by a few well-disposed persons, in order to meet together to worship God."

On his visit thither Parson Ross baptised twenty-five children and several grown persons.

Although he does not mention "Prince George's Chapel" by name, the "small frame building erected by a few well-disposed persons" could have been none other. It was the only place anywhere in the neighbourhood that would fit into his account, distance from Lewes and the like.

Prince George's Chapel had its beginning as a chapel-of-ease for St. Martin's Church at Snow Hill, in Worcester County, Maryland. There is no record of the date at which it was built, but Parson Ross's *Journal* entries show conclusively that it was standing at the time of his visit in 1717.

Just what the small frame building that Parson Ross visited was like we do not know. It was replaced later in the century, June of 1757, by the structure we know to-day. General Dagworthy was a benefactor and was buried beneath the transept.

The exterior of Prince George's Chapel is not impressive in its modern coating of shingles. However, this decent but uninspired modern coating protects an interior of great beauty that bears eloquent witness to the skill and sound judgement of the mid-eighteenth-century master-builders.

The chancel has been somewhat modernised and adorned with pointed-top windows filled with coloured glass, and a part of the gallery has been removed. Otherwise the interior is unspoiled and intact as the builders left it more than two hundred years ago.

The most striking feature is the graceful barrel vault that spans the nave. It is fashioned of heart-pine planks and springs from the tops of the sturdy pine columns that support the galleries above the aisles. The old box pews in the nave have been replaced by benches of a later date, but some of the panelled box pews in the aisles have not been disturbed. All the panelling details and mouldings are simple but admirably wrought.

Not a drop of paint has touched the old woodwork anywhere. In more than two centuries the heart-pine has reached a rich depth of hue that defies accurate definition.

When Prince George's Chapel was built, wood was the only available material in Sussex. It is illuminating to see how adroitly the eighteenth-century builders translated the masonry traditions of English ecclesiastical precedent into convincing expression in wood.



Colonel David Hall House, north front view showing Victorian glazing.



Ryves Holt House, Lewes. Dated *ante* 1684, but it is much altered.

COLONEL DAVID HALL HOUSE

King's Highway, opposite Zwaanendael Museum, Lewes

The Colonel David Hall House, on the King's Highway opposite Zwaanendael Museum, is a three-bay, two-storey-and-attic, cypress-shingled wooden structure painted grey. It was built about 1790 and was the home of Colonel David Hall. On the west side, at the rear, is a wing of seemingly earlier date.

The late eighteenth-century character of the exterior was badly marred when Victorian "improvers" removed the old many-paned sashes and replaced them with the large-paned sashes approved by the taste of the period. Such changes destroy the scale of old buildings.

The interior woodwork and panelling are good. The woodwork details adhere to precedents earlier than the date of the house. There are occasional touches of originality of interpretation by the house-carpenter.

Colonel David Hall, as he is generally called, was born at Lewes January 4, 1752. He studied law and was admitted to the Bar in 1773, when he was twenty-one. In September, 1775, he became a member of the Delaware Council of Safety. He was commissioned Captain in the Continental service and, in Col. John Haslet's Regiment, led his company at the Battles of Long Island and White Plains. He later became a colonel in the Delaware Regiment. Seriously wounded in the Battle of Germantown, he was incapacitated for further active service and returned to the practice of law.

He was Prothonotary for Sussex from 1777 to 1788. In 1802 he was elected the fifteenth Governor of Delaware and served till 1805. He was one of the four Delaware Governors who came from Lewes. In 1813 he was commissioned one of the Associate Justices of the Court of Common Pleas for Sussex, and continued to serve in that office until his death in September, 1817.

RYVES HOLT HOUSE

Corner of Second and Mulberry Streets, Lewes

The Ryves Holt House, at the corner of Second and Mulberry Streets, is so called because of its erstwhile occupant, Chief-Justice Ryves Holt. Believed to be the oldest house still standing in Lewes, it is a two-storey-and-attic wooden structure, cypress-shingled and now painted yellow. It is known to have been standing in 1685 and doubtless was built some years before that.

It has undergone sundry external changes so that the only part of the exterior that presents the original aspect appears at the extreme right-hand side of the illustration. Inside, the house has undergone so many successive changes and mutilations through nearly three centuries that it is well-nigh impossible even to visualise the original plan. Here you see a seventeenth-century door in an early nineteenth-century doorway, there a bit of seventeenth-century panelling cut through the middle by an eighteenth-century partition, on the other side of which is a still later hall and stair in a totally unexpected and illogical place. The anomalies seem endless.

On September 28, 1685, Philip Russell, recorded as "cup-bearer" to William Penn, was licensed to operate an "ordinary" in Lewes "at the corner of Second and Knitting Street" (present Mulberry Street). In 1721, Ryves Holt (1696-1763) came to "Port Lewes" and lived in this house. He came to Lewes after "quitting the West Indies and Portuguese trade out of Philadelphia." At Lewes he became Naval Officer of the Port, and was also many times High Sheriff of Sussex County. In 1745, having studied law and being well versed therein, he was made Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court in the Three Lower Counties on Delaware, and remained Chief-Justice until his death in 1763. In 1750 he entertained John Watson, the Penns' Surveyor, and accompanied him to Fenwick Island whence the Delaware-Maryland boundary was surveyed westward.

A further interest attaches to the old house in its association with the boyhood of Commodore Jacob Jones. Jones was four years old when his father died and his stepmother, who was a daughter of Ryves Holt, took him to live with her in the old home at Lewes. She was a well-educated woman, devoted to young Jacob, and she herself tutored the lad until he was sent to learn "Greek, Latin and Geography." It was during his boyhood at Lewes that the lure of the sea got into his blood and never left him.



Coleman House, Lewes. The exterior is characteristic of Sussex County domestic architecture, but it is much altered within.



Thomas Maull House, Pilottown Road, Lewes. Later additions have been removed and the house is being restored to its original state.

COLEMAN HOUSE

West side of King's Highway near Madison Street, Lewes

The Coleman House, on the west side of the King's Highway near Madison Street, once the home of Thomas Coleman, is a two-storey-and-attic wooden structure, cypress-shingled and painted white. At the northeast end is a one-storey-and-attic wing.

Although there have been some slight changes outside, the exterior remains substantially in its original condition and well represents the Sussex domestic architecture of its period. The small shield beside the door of the main house, bearing the arms of the namesake town in the Mother Country, is one of those placed on Lewes houses of historic significance by the Colonel David Hall Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The interior woodwork is good and verifies the early date of the house, but the whole interior has undergone considerable alteration in adjusting it to the requirements of modern living. The wing has been converted into a separate dwelling.

At the entrance of the drive into the plot of land that once surrounded the house are the Bride and Groom Trees, two ancient bald cypresses planted about 1813 by Margaret Coleman when she expected to marry a young clergyman. The marriage never took place, but the trees remain, the mementos of a romance or a tragedy.

It was an old English custom, perpetuated in Lewes and other parts of Sussex, for an affianced couple to plant two trees before their future home.

THOMAS MAULL HOUSE

Pilottown Road, Lewes

The Thomas Maull House on Pilottown Road is a gambrel-roofed, one-storey-and-attic wooden building, its walls sheathed with bald-cypress shingles, painted white. It was built about 1750, according to local belief, but may be earlier.

At first glance, it is difficult from the outside to gauge the age of old Sussex County shingle-sheathed houses. Unpainted sheathing, from the action of wind and weather, soon takes on the appearance of age. Paint completes the disguise. On second glance, the lines of the roof, and the spacing and dimensions of the windows, furnish the only clues.

It is not until one gets inside that all kinds of minor details and characteristics become evident and yield their combined testimony, from which one is able to arrive at a reasonable understanding of the building's age, unless "improvers" and modernisers have been at work with carpentry and paint.

The house was originally built on the "Resurrection Manor plan"; at one end of the "great room" the fireplace, flanked on one side by the closed winding stair to the upper storey, on the other by a cupboard. At the opposite end of the "great room" is the "added room." The panelling, both in the "great room" and in the room above is excellent. Through the years there have been sundry additions to the original structure.

A story associated with the Maull house has inevitably become an outstanding item in the folklore of Lewes. On a stormy night in 1803, one of Stephen Girard's ships, bound for France, had to put into the harbour at Lewes for repairs. Among the passengers, set ashore and sheltered by the people of Lewes during repairs, were Jerome Bonaparte and his bride, Betsy Patterson. The Maulls took the Bonapartes into their house and gave them a bounteous supper of roast goose.

Capricious Betsy would not sit down to the table until a messenger had been sent back to the disabled ship to fetch her own silver candlesticks. The meal was kept waiting till the candlesticks came. Betsy's wet clothing, what little of it there was, was hung up on a clothes-line to dry. This incident may possibly have occurred at the Peter Maull house (now demolished), but more probably at the Thomas Maull house shown in the illustration.

FISHER'S PARADISE

North end of Pilottown Road, Lewes

The house at the north end of the Pilottown Road, called Fisher's Paradise, was so named because it was the home of Dr. Henry Fisher. It is a three-bay, two-storey-and-attic wooden structure whose walls are sheathed with bald-cypress shingles in the usual Sussex County manner. Built before the middle of the eighteenth century, it is somewhat larger than most of the other Pilottown houses and has more architectural pretension.

The interior woodwork is good and there is excellent panelling. The stair is especially noteworthy, from the ground floor to the attic. Unfortunately, "improvers" have had a field-day and in the principal rooms the panelling is obscured by superposed plastic boarding "to cover up the points sticking out!"

Dr. Henry Fisher came from Waterford, Ireland, in 1725 and settled in Lewes. He seems to have been the first physician of eminence in the Three Lower Counties. He was the only thoroughly educated and competent doctor in Sussex County in his time and his wide practice extended into Maryland.

His son, Major Henry Fisher, rendered important service to the American cause during the Revolutionary War. At the outbreak of the War there were so many Loyalists in Lewes, and feeling was so strongly divided, that a military detachment was sent to watch and to keep peace. After the battalion was withdrawn, Henry Fisher, one of the capable Lewes pilots, with the permission of Congress, raised a company of 100 men for the defence of the Cape and the river country, and armed them, it is said, at his own expense.

He was given the entire command of Lewes and of all the pilots on the river; likewise the sole control of the arrangements for receiving and exchanging prisoners. Receiving his orders from Congress, he superintended the defences of the entrance to Delaware Bay. Through his swift pilot and whale boats he obtained information and gave warnings of great consequence to the Continental forces.

Historians agree that Caesar Rodney's famous ride to Philadelphia, to vote "aye" to the Declaration of Independence, started from Dover. Nevertheless, the local story persists that Rodney started his arduous journey from Fisher's Paradise. Being the guest of Major Fisher, when he had come to Lewes to deal with Loyalist disorders, the Lewes legend relates

> "how Rodney was infatuated with Sarah Rowland, the Tory daughter of the postmaster; how she seized the letters from Thomas McKean frantically summoning Rodney to Philadelphia, and how finally a Negro maid in the Rowland house told him of the trick, giving him barely time enough to gallop the 120 miles to cast his vote in the Continental Congress."

Colonel Samuel Boyer Davis occupied Fisher's Paradise when he was in command of the troops sent to defend Lewes in the War of 1812. The appearance of a British squadron before Lewes in April, 1813, caused the utmost anxiety. Commodore Beresford demanded food supplies for his ships and threatened to bombard the town if his demands were not met.

He was promptly refused and bidden to do his worst. The bombardment took place April 6th and 7th. Most of the British shots miscarried and only a few cannon balls struck the town. By a clever ruse, Beresford was led to believe the defending force was much larger than it actually was. The only recorded casualties in the town were "one chicken killed; one pig wounded, leg broken."

CONWELL HOUSE

West side of State Route 14, first farmhouse north of drawbridge over the Broadkill

The cypress-shingled farmhouse, locally known as the Conwell house, built before the middle of the eighteenth century, is a two-storey-and-attic structure, one room deep, with a one-storey-and-attic wing at the south end. The building is of half-timber construction.

The northern portion of the main structure (indicated by two northernmost windows on both floors),

with the brick chimney outside the north end of the house, is an extension added a little later to the dwelling as first built.

The old bald-cypress shingling has been replaced or else covered up entirely by a modern substitute. This renovation has robbed the exterior of its former convincing aspect of venerable age. The use of long bald-cypress shingles to cover exterior walls is an outstanding traditional feature of southern Sussex County architecture. Although the shingles soon weather to a silver grey and appear age-worn, they are very durable. Oftentimes when they have been replaced or covered over by some modern commercial product, there has been no physical necessity for so doing; the change has been merely a case of "keeping up with the Joneses."

Through the years the interior of the Conwell house has been subjected to many changes, all of them contributory to effacing its pristine character. One of the most regretable is the replacement of eighteenth-century fireplaces by grotesque mantel contrivances of the late Greek-Revival era.

In the eighteenth century the Conwell house had an occupant who kept a diary; Aletta Clowes Clarke, wife of Miers Clarke. Her diary entries, in the latter part of the century, afford a revealing series of intimate glimpses of the day-to-day life of the time in southern Sussex.

When she notes, on December 2nd, 1789, "I got the piece out that I had on the loom" and, two days later, "I wove on it all day," it vividly recalls the great amount of linen and cloth weaving then done in their own homes by good housewives.

On December 31st, "Negroes a Christmasing" is a reminder of Sussex customary consideration for both slaves and freemen, and their families, and the usual contributions to their happiness at Christmas and other holidays.

On May 24th, 1790, "A great meeting on the Beach, Cakes, Raisins, Meat, Bread, Rum, Wine, & all such things, there to sell" pictures the community beach parties, an established institution in southeastern Sussex, that were oftentimes half pic-nic, half local fair.

"Warm. Mosquitoes very thick" on June 24th, 1792, has a very modern sound. There are still "musquitoes" a plenty, but they have now been brought under reasonable control.

If all the old houses in Delaware had been blessed with such homely diarists as the one-time mistress of the Conwell house, our knowledge of the social and economic life of bygone days would be immeasurably enriched.

CEDAR CROFT

East of State Route 14 on Oyster Rocks Road, Broadkill Hundred

William Penn succeeded in getting the Duke of York's deed to what is now the State of Delaware just in time to enable him to take seisin at New Castle on October 28, 1682. This was on Penn's first visit to America, and the ceremony of "turf, twig and soil" took place before he went on up the Delaware River to enter his new Proprietary Province of Pennsylvania.

On taking seisin to the Delaware territory, Penn became heir to a vexing and long-drawn-out set of boundary troubles quite distinct from anything connected with the Province of Pennsylvania. Without going into the details of the long-standing boundary dispute with Maryland, which had begun under Dutch rule, before the Duke of York's Government began, suffice it to say that for a long time after Penn's arrival the chief theatre of friction was in southern and western Sussex. One outcome of the uncertainty and unsettlement was a baffling confusion of land-grants and titles.

Before the boundary dispute between Sussex and Maryland was definitely settled, part of it not until 1775, colonists from Maryland were encouraged by the Maryland authorities to take up land north of the disputed line, and were given Maryland patents for it.

Under the circumstances, Penn quite naturally was anxious to have as much hitherto unpatented land

as possible taken up in southern Sussex under his own grants and occupied by substantial colonists on whose friendship and loyalty he could rely. Two such were Dr. Thomas Wynne and John Fisher, both of whom had crossed with him in the *Welcome*.



Cedar Croft, the Fisher homestead at Broadkill, showing south front that has replaced the original house.

Thomas Wynne, "late of Bronvadog near Caerwys, in the county of fflynt churygeon," had found ample practice for his profession in the outbreak of smallpox that occurred on the *Welcome*. When Penn was organising his "Holy Experiment," Thomas Wynne and John ap John, for themselves and as trustees for others, had purchased 5000 acres in the proposed Welsh Barony in Pennsylvania.

Born about 1630, Dr. Wynne was "descended from a very ancient and honourable family." When he was a lad he had great hopes of becoming a physician, but the death of his father caused such financial stress in the family that he was obliged to learn the trade of a cooper. Not to be baulked in realising his cherished ambition, he studied diligently under the guidance of "a good Artist in Chyrurgery" in Shropshire and several celebrated anatomists, and became a successful "Chirurgeon and Practitioner in Physics," as he styled himself in his will.

Wynne was one of the early converts to Quakerism and became an eminent minister, suffering imprisonment for his convictions. In 1677 he had published a pamphlet entitled:

"The Antiquity of the Quakers, proved out of the Scriptures of Truth. Published in Love to the Papists, Protestants, Presbyterians, Independents and Anabaptists. With a Salutation of Pure Love to all the Tender-hearted Welshmen. But more especially to Flintshire, Denbighshire, Caernarvonshire and Anglesea. By their Countryman and Friend Thomas Wynne."

A widower, in 1676 he had married the widow of Joshua Maud of Alverthorpe, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire. Her two daughters, Jane Maud and Margery Maud then entered into Thomas Wynne's story.

On landing from the *Welcome* at Philadelphia, Thomas Wynne became a "cave-dweller" and lived in one of the caves, dug into the steep bank along the river front, as temporary shelters while houses were a-building. His brick house, on Front Street above Chestnut, was one of the first built. Chestnut Street at first was called Wynne Street. His cave he sold to the executors of his friend and ship-mate, John Fisher, with rights of tenure

"for the remainder of the term of three years, from 2nd September, 1684, and longer if the Governour shall please."

Whether Wynne's wife accompanied him on the *Welcome*, or whether she sailed with her daughters on the *Submission* (which left Liverpool September 5, 1682) is not definitely known. It is most likely she came on the *Submission*. This ship, bearing more Quaker colonists, was scheduled to proceed to

"Delaware River or elsewhere in Pennsylvania, to the best conveniency of freighters."

As a matter of fact, the *Submission* landed the colonists bound for Pennsylvania on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, to their great inconvenience. This mishap, however, gave Mrs. Wynne and her daughters a chance to see something of Sussex. Evidently Mrs. Wynne was favourably impressed, for not long afterwards the Wynnes acquired considerable land-holdings near Lewes. They established themselves there and seem to have divided their time between Philadelphia and Sussex County.

Thomas Wynne was one of the outstanding personages in Penn's colonising venture. His judgement was everywhere deferred to and the Founder placed great dependence upon him. He was chosen the first Speaker of the Provincial Assembly and represented Sussex at the first session of the Assembly, held in Philadelphia, January 21, 1683. In 1688 he was Associate Justice of Sussex County. He died in 1693.

John Fisher, already mentioned as another loyal supporter upon whom Penn relied for the settlement of Sussex, also crossed with the Proprietary on the *Welcome*. To quote from a manuscript in the handwriting of his grandson Joshua,

"My grandfather, John Fisher, removed from Clithero in Lancashire, Old England, in the year 1682, with all his children, to Philadelphia, was in good esteem among Friends, and of competent worldly substance; he had three sons, Thomas, John and James, and several daughters; all except Thomas, who was my father, and John, died young."

Besides taking up some land in Pennsylvania, John Fisher began at once to buy land in Sussex and seems to have divided his time between Philadelphia and Lewes. According to family tradition, he thought the

"Situation chosen by Penn for Philadelphia was so far from the mouth of the Delaware as to be disadvantageous to commerce, and that this was his reason for buying land in Sussex County near Cape Henlopen."

He died some time between May, 1685 and April, 1686, but between November, 1682 and the time of his death he had bought "Twiver," 500 acres, "Millbourne," 400 acres, and other tracts in Sussex County.

John Fisher himself, it seems, lived on the land now called Cedar Croft. At what time the name Cedar Croft was first used is uncertain. In any event, the original dwelling was long ago demolished and the site is marked by two separate monuments not very far apart.

One records that it was erected by William W. Fisher "to mark the supposed site of the original settlement of the Fisher family in Delaware about the year 1685." The other, somewhat more definite, records

that it was erected by Eliza A. Fisher in memory of some nine relatives "and other descendants of John Fisher who came to America from England in 1683 and settled on this farm about the year 1685."

The present house is not far to the east of the former homestead and nearer the Bay. Standing at the verge of original forest land, it is almost hemmed in by towering trees of ancient growth. Immediately around the house is a veritable labyrinth of boxwood and crepe myrtles.

The shingle-sheathed walls are characteristic of Sussex and, of course, offer no indication of the age of the building whose walls they cover. Nevertheless, from the uneven spacing of the windows on the five-bay front, it is plainly evident that the house, as it stands to-day, was built at two different times. In the box cornice, at the eastern end, is plain indication of the part built first.

WHITE MEADOW FARM

Cool Spring, State Route 18, about six miles west of Lewes

"White Meadow" was the name of a 1000-acre tract, near the head of a branch of Love's Creek, patented to Alexander Mollestine and John Kipshaven jointly on January 16, 1684. Mollestine, or Molleston, and Kipshaven were both members of General Assembly for Sussex County. On January 8, 1695, Molleston sold his part of the tract to Thomas Fisher as 518 acres near the county road to Cool Spring.

Thomas Fisher, already mentioned as the eldest son of the immigrant John Fisher, companion of Penn and Dr. Wynne on the *Welcome,* removed from Philadelphia to Sussex County in 1686. He was then a young man of seventeen. In a document dated April 12, 1687, he is styled "Thomas Fisher, of the County of Sussex, Planter."

In 1693, when he was twenty-four, he married Margery Maud, Dr. Wynne's stepdaughter. Dr. Wynne died in January, 1693. In February the wedding took place, and immediately thereafter, the Widow Wynne, by deed of gift, conveyed to her daughter Margery and her young husband Thomas a tract of land on the Broadkill containing 175 acres of fast land together with other property in the neighbourhood.

Just where the young couple lived has never been definitely determined; no old house near the Broadkill has been unquestionably associated with their names. Thomas's younger brother, John, continued at the homestead, now called Cedar Croft.

Thomas followed his father's example in acquiring land. The White Meadow tract he bought from Alexander Molleston in 1695 was one of his early purchases. This White Meadow tract Thomas Fisher willed to his son Joshua, November 17, 1713. Joshua Fisher sold the same, February 1, 1736, to Robert and Samuel Scott, who sold it the same day to James Martin.

As the deed of 1736 (recorded in Sussex County Deed Book G7, p. 189) mentions "all houses, improvements, easements" etc., the house, at least the oldest part of it, was evidently standing at that time. Had there been no building on it, the land would have been conveyed without mention of "improvements."

From James Martin, the early purchaser, the place has been generally known locally as the "Martin house." The Martins seem to have occupied it for a considerable time. However, for the sake of continuity of identification, it seems preferable to use the old name of the tract "White Meadow" to avoid the confusions and uncertainties of identity occurring when succeeding generations, ignorant of an old house's history, know it only as "Mr. Smith's" or "Mr. Jones's."

The house, now in a sadly dilapidated condition, is an *architectural document of the first importance.* It is a one-storey-and-attic gambrel-roofed structure, with a cockloft above the high attic. It is of half-timber construction nogged with brick, and the exterior is horizontally weatherboarded.

From a close scrutiny of every particular of construction, and from verification by accurate measurements of every feature, it is beyond doubt that the house was built at two different times. The addition was undoubtedly made at an early date, probably only a few years later than the original structure, but an addition it certainly was. What happened is shown by the accompanying drawings.

The plan of the house as originally built was virtually the same as at Resurrection Manor in St. Mary's

County, Maryland, the first part of which Thomas Cornwaleys built in 1652-3. The 1654 addition to Resurrection Manor house consisted of one room, with one additional bedroom above it. The same early plan was followed elsewhere in Maryland. Its *essential* element is the one large room, with fireplace and winding stair beside it. When added to, there would be one or two rooms opening out from the first-built room. The kitchen was in a small building outside the dwelling. The house at Resurrection Manor is taken as an example and basis of comparison because the original structure is intact, as Thomas Cornwaleys left it. This plan came up from Maryland and, with various adaptations or slight variations, appeared again and again in pre-Georgian houses in both Sussex and Kent.

The significant thing about White Meadow Farm is that the original building followed practically the identical "Resurrection Manor plan," the only difference being that the fireplace and closed stair at Resurrection Manor are at the north end of the one large room, while at White Meadow Farm they are at the middle of the east side. There was probably a small "added" room at southwest corner. Presumably there was a detached kitchen outside, as in Maryland. There are instances of such at other very early Delaware houses near the Maryland line. One wonders whether Thomas Fisher's elder son, Jabez Maud, who was living in Worcester County, had offered any suggestions.

When the addition was made, the "improvers" demolished the west wall of the big room as far as the line of the later partition; they added a wide hall without any particular function, except to give room overhead for the added bedrooms; and they put in a stupid and thoroughly uncomfortable steep stair of one flight at the end of the hall, to replace the original closed winding stair beside the fireplace.

At the same time they did a very clumsy job when they cut the fireplace panelling and twisted part of it at an obtuse angle to enclose a second fireplace (attached to the one flue) they tried to wiggle in where the original stair had been, and then added the partition. Perhaps they were trying to make the north end of the old long room into a kitchen.

The exterior of the original building was finished with due regard to architectural amenity. Under the box cornice of the south front there is still intact a moulded frieze with dentils. This is lacking in the other part of the south front. It is also worth noting that in the original matched weatherboarding of the south front each board is not only beaded but moulded! The rest of the later weatherboarding is merely matched. Joshua Fisher built the house probably as early as 1728, perhaps a little earlier.

Both Thomas Fisher and his son Joshua were men of parts and did their share in the public life of their day. The house that recalls the Fisher name is thoroughly indicative of the cultural life of early Delaware and deserves the attention of all who have any interest in the work of historic preservation.

Thomas Fisher in 1697 and 1700 was a member for Sussex County at the General Assembly then sitting in Philadelphia. In 1698 he was appointed Overseer of Highways. Again, in 1704, when the Assembly sat at New Castle, he represented Sussex. He was there in 1708 when eight members, because of the extraordinary conduct of Governour Evans, drew up a statement that they "desirous to keep ourselves Clear of every thing that may hurt our Establishment or disturb the peace we enjoy . . . think fit to return to our habitation." On the protest signed by these eight members, who went home and left the Assembly without a quorum, the signature of Thomas Fisher from Sussex stands first.

In 1706, and again in 1708, he was elected a Justice of the Peace. A Justice of the Peace at that time was likewise a Judge of the Orphans' Court and of the Courts of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions. From 1710 to 1714 he was Recorder of Deeds for Sussex County.

Thomas Fisher was agent for the Proprietary in Sussex County and, in 1712, he engaged the talents of Andrew Hamilton for the first time in the service of the Penn Family. Hamilton was called upon to deal with a rich refractory landowner who refused to pay quit-rents. Thomas Fisher's record of continuous service to his County and Province earned him the well-deserved esteem of his generation.

Joshua Fisher, the son of Thomas, born in 1707, in 1733 married Sarah, the daughter of Thomas Rowland of Lewes. At the time of his marriage he was carrying on his trade as a hatter in Lewes, along with a substantial export trade he had built up in beaver skins and other furs.



White Meadow Farm near Cool Spring, showing south front and west ends. Hole beneath windows in south front was cut when the house was used for storage of corn.



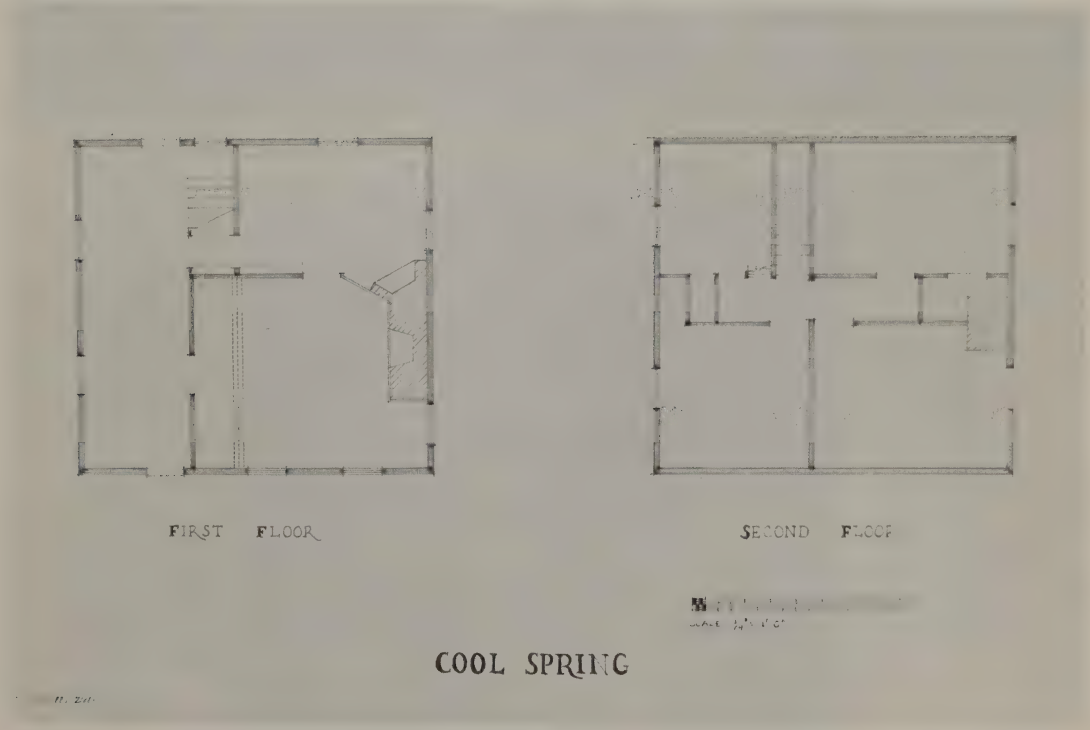
Section of south front of White Meadow Farm showing original beaded and moulded weather boards and dentilled cornice.

Self-educated by assiduous application and effort, he had become an expert mathematician and was a skilled pilot. At the instance of James Logan, he was the first to experiment at sea with the quadrant recently invented by Godfrey. It was Joshua Fisher who prepared the chart of Delaware Bay and River that was published and served as the official chart until the United States Government Coast Survey chart was issued in the nineteenth century.

In 1745 or 1746 Joshua removed to Philadelphia that he might "further the education of his children." Commercial opportunities were also a consideration. His departure from Lewes seems to have called forth a testimonial of appreciation from his fellow townsmen.

At Philadelphia he engaged in the shipping business and eventually established the great mercantile firm of Joshua Fisher & Sons, a firm that suffered much during the Revolutionary War because the Quaker principles of its members forbade the supply of goods for the Continental cause.

When Joshua Fisher left Lewes, he sold his slave field hands. His household slaves he took with him to Philadelphia. When he later became convinced that slavery was wrong, he freed his household slaves. But his conscience still troubled him. He came to Lewes, bought back his field slaves, with their wives and children as well, and set them all free. This act of conscience cost him about £3000 sterling, a goodly sum in those days.



White Meadow Farm floor plan.



Sussex County Court House, Georgetown, as finished by William Strickland, who deplored its aspect.



Sussex County Court House as rehabilitated in 1914.

SUSSEX COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Southeast corner of Square and East Market Street, Georgetown

The Sussex County Court House, at Georgetown, was finished in 1840 and additions were made to it in 1914. It stands on the site of the first Court House, built in 1793.

Until 1791 Lewes was the County Town of Sussex County. As early as 1786 there had been spirited agitation for a change of the county seat. The leaders of the movement claimed that Lewes, being at the extreme eastern side of the county, was not a convenient place for a majority of Sussex people. As a result of the continued agitation, in 1791 the State Assembly passed an Act to purchase 100 acres of land in the centre of Sussex County and to erect thereon a Court House and a gaol.

In 1792 the newly-established town was named Georgetown, in honour of George Mitchell, one of the Commissioners appointed to carry out the provisions of the Assembly's Act. In 1793 the original Court House was built at the expense of several private citizens, who were afterwards reimbursed from the proceeds of a lottery authorised by the State. This first Court House was a small frame building very much like the two-storey-and-attic dwelling house of the time.

By 1835 there was a general demand throughout the county for a more commodious Court House. Several years later, in response to the increasing demand, the old frame Court House was moved to its present site nearby on the west side of South Bedford Street, and work was started on the new structure.

The new brick Court House, as finished in 1840, was an oblong building of two full storeys, the upper storey containing the Court Room much loftier than the lower storey, in which were the different County Offices. There was a squatty square tower rising to about the bottom of the clock-face on the tower as it appears to-day. Atop this stunted tower was an ugly box-like wooden contraption that held the clock.

Altogether, an unprepossessing, lumpish-looking object with little attempt at architectural amenity to commend it. And yet, in this graceless body, the structural groundwork was there, and some characteristic features also, in readiness for the long-delayed rehabilitation of 1914.

In this body, the brick masonry is laid in Flemish-bond, sticking to sound Georgian tradition in spite of contemporary Greek-Revival preference for running bond and stucco-coating. The lintols at the door and window-heads are of rubbed and gauged bricks, their mortar joints converging towards the bases of the key blocks. This, also, another perpetuation of Georgian tradition. The key blocks are of cut stone.

The presence of a Palladian window above the doorway is another evidence of embedded Georgian tradition persisting in the Greek-Revival age. But it is Georgian tradition with a mixed Federal and Greek-Revival flavour. The very narrow sidelights and the reeded woodwork with corner-blocks and roundels all betoken a departure from Georgian precedent. The narrow sidelights of the doorway, and the reeded and corner-blocked woodwork, likewise show the same newer trend.

The iron balcony beneath the Palladian window harks back to tradition. The idea of a balcony above the main doorway of a public building savours of the eighteenth century; the material and design are of the later era.

And who was the architect of this "ugly duckling"? None other than the renowned and justly-esteemed William Strickland! Strickland designed and gave the authorities of Sussex County what they asked for, a well built and purely functional Court House. As to the appearance of the structure, if we may judge from Strickland's own words when he submitted the plans and the building estimate, because of the "smallness of the sum to be appropriated" he feared it would be as unprepossessing as later generations deemed it.

On March 27, 1837, Strickland wrote the Chairman of the Commissioners:

> "Agreeable to the request contained in your letter of the 16 instant, I have made all due haste in designing & drawing the Plans of a Court House and fire proof Offices for the County of Sussex. I think I have made a Convenient plan for the Hall, Stairway and other interior Arrangements for the Court Room & Jury Rooms. If I have not been so happy on the front: Your limits as to funds are the Cause of the Brick Appearance, and I could have Wished to have introduced a

Estimate of the Cost of Building a Court House and fire proof offices 60 feet Square According to the accompanying Plans & Elevations, viz

Digging and foundation 120 cubic yds	$ 24.00
Building Stone = 150 perches measuring 25 feet to the rod including Lime and Sand	450.00
Bricks — 350 000 @ 10$ measuring laying Lime, and Sand	3500.00
Lumber for floors, Roof, frame Sash &c &c	1800.00
Joiners Work	2300.00
Plastering Work and Materials	520.00
Painting and Glazing	450.00
Ironmongery. Nails. Shoes & Spikes &c	380.00
Tinn 3900 feet 1/4 Inch at 14 cts measuring Salem Court putting on	546.00
Copper 750 feet of Copper for Cupola	275.00
Stone Window Sills 26	112.00
Stone Steps front & Back doors	60.00
Total Cost	10.417.00

Added 5 per cent for Contingencies

William Strickland
Architect

Philad^a March 26. 1837

Philadelphia March 27. 1837

To
Nath^l Waples Esq^r

Dear Sir

Agreeably to the Request contained in your Letter of the 16 Inst I have made all due enquiry respecting the Plans of a Court House and fire Proof Offices for the County of Sussex. I think I have made a convenient Plan for the Hall Entrance and other interior Arrangements for the Court Room & Jury Rooms. If Plans not been to lengthy in the front & yet limited as to Funds on the Score of the Brick appearance, and I could have wished to have introduced a few Columns and some other decorations, on the exterior but was afraid on account of the Smallness of the Sum to be appropriated

I have drawn an Iron Gallery in front on the Court Room both by Elevation and by the Cupola of the Court. Or for any purpose of addressing to a Multitude beneath it is intended to project about 3 feet from the front of the Court Window and immediately Under the door of entrance in the basement Story I thought you might be Wont a Clock and therefore introduced one in the Cupola which is very Conveniently placed in front over the Archway

Would an Double and Commodious

As you May at Some future day Want a Gallery in the Court Room you may Contract the Story to a Level with the Ceiling of the Jury Rooms Which need not be more than 12 feet in height and you will perceive that you Can have a large Gallery over these Rooms, as the Court Room is 24 feet in height

My Charge for these Plans and attendance is $ 60.

With Great Respect &c
I am your Very Humble & Sincerely
William Strickland

Letter from William Strickland to Commissioner Waples regarding the Sussex County Court House.

few Columns and other decorations, on the exterior but was Afraid on Account of the Smallness of the sum to be Appropriated.

I have drawn an Iron Gallery in front of the Court Room lobby floor for the use of the Cryer of the Court, or for any purpose of declaiming to a multitude beneath—it is intended to project about 3 feet from the front of the Large Window and immediately over the door of entrance in the basement Story. I thought you might want a Clock and have therefore introduced one in the Case of the Cupola which is very Conveniently in front over the Stairways which are double and Commodious.

As you may at some future day want a Gallery in the Court Room you can Continue the Stairs to a level with the Ceiling of the Jury rooms which need not be more than 12 feet in height. And you will perceive that you can have a large Gallery over these Rooms, as the Court Room is 20 feet in height.

My Charge for these Plans and estimate is $60.

With Great Respect Sir
I am yours very truly and Sincerely
William Strickland."*

1202849

When the Court House was rehabilitated in 1914, no alteration in the structure of the building was needed, and none took place. All the changes made were in the form of consistent additions to what was already in being: the portico and its tall columns with moulded box-capitals and central pediment; the surmounting parapet; and the brick parapet along the sides of the building, continuing the line of the wooden portico parapet and giving coherence to the rows of unduly tall chimney shafts. The parapet feature derives from the Regency or Federal manner.

In 1914 also the square brick tower was carried up to its present height and its wooden cupola superstructure built. In the illustration the line is plainly visible in the brickwork showing where the addition begins; this line cuts across the face of the tower just beneath the reversed key block under the clock.

Inside, within the tower space, is a double stair ascending to the Court Room, which takes up most of the upper storey. Through the length of the lower storey runs a long central hall, from which open the different County Offices. The relative heights of the lower and upper storeys can be seen from outside by looking at the window dimensions.

All the interior woodwork is of the simplest character, naught but the window and door trims, and those in the neatly modest manner of the forepart of the nineteenth century.

The Court House of 1840 was a stark, uninviting structure to look at. The "face-lifting" of 1914, although it may not have carried out in actual detail the amenities envisioned by Strickland, nevertheless supplied the graces whose lack he had deplored. With skillful tact the architects of 1914 changed the "ugly duckling" of 1840 into a personable "swan."

OLD COURT HOUSE, GEORGETOWN

On South Bedford Street, near Court House Square

When it was decided in 1791 to move the county seat of Sussex to a more central point of the county than Lewes, the appropriation for building a Court House in Georgetown was straitly limited.

A two-storey-and-attic frame house, sheathed with bald-cypress shingles, five bays in width in modified Georgian semblance, was all the Commissioners could venture to build, even though the funds for building were advanced by private citizens who were to be reimbursed by a State-authorised lottery.

This first Court House in the new county seat was really nothing else than a fairly spacious dwelling house with some modifications of interior arrangement in order to accommodate the Court and the County Offices. So far as architectural considerations went, it was strictly utilitarian and plain as a pipe-stem. This modest structure built in 1793 served the needs of the county until 1836. It stood on the site of

*Original in manuscript in Delaware State Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

the present Court House.

By 1835 it had become increasingly evident that more commodious quarters for the Court and the County Offices were imperatively required, and William Strickland, the Philadelphia engineer and architect was commissioned to design a new Court House for Sussex County.

Before work on the new Court House started in 1837, the old frame Court House was sold and moved to a nearby site on South Bedford Street just south of the Court House Square in the centre of Georgetown. For a long time after its removal to Bedford Street it was used as a dwelling, presumably with some interior alteration to suit purely domestic use. The exterior remains unchanged. It is now a printing establishment. Absence of domestic upkeep outside, and interior rearrangement incident to its present commercial purpose, have not contributed to a prepossessing appearance.

It is said that for some time after the building of the new Court House "the lawyers of Georgetown placed a great bowl of egg-nog each Easter on the steps, and the public dipped in." Whether this pleasant custom originated in the days of the old Court House is not recorded.

THE JUDGE'S

West Market Street, near Square, Georgetown

The house in Georgetown, generally known as The Judge's, is so named because its builder and first occupant was a judge and several succeeding occupants likewise were judges.

Built in 1809, The Judge's is a frame two-storey-and-attic house with a wing extension at the rear, and another small one-storey wing at the east side. It is a five-bay, cypress-shingled structure, with a central hall, and is one room deep so that the west-side rooms have windows that look out both on the street and on the garden at the rear.



The Judge's, Georgetown, showing the south front. The small detached building at the extreme right is the separate law office.

Though built in the early nineteenth century, the general character of the exterior coincides with the manner of the late eighteenth century. The later influence is discernible only in the treatment of the dormer details and in the sidelights at the front door. The straight five-pane transom above the door is a distinctly Early-Georgian feature. As at another, but much earlier, Sussex County house, Rosemont in North Laurel, the front door is a single unit but, at the opposite end of the hall, a double door, or door of two leaves, opens into the garden.

The interior woodwork is very simple but good. There is no panelling to speak of. The handsome dark grey marble mantels, of a pattern just coming into use at the beginning of the nineteenth century, show that the judge who built the house was quite abreast of the times in the matter of architectural fashion.

The little law-office is a separate one-storey building at the eastern corner of the front yard, a dependency characteristic of the period for the town-houses of lawyers and physicians, though generally annexed to the main body of the house.

Judge Peter Robinson, born October 14, 1775, who built and first lived in The Judge's, was the son of Thomas Robinson a Sussex County Loyalist. After reading law under Chanceller Ridgely, Peter Robinson was admitted to the Bar in 1799. He soon became one of the leading practitioners in the State.

Before his elevation to the Bench, he had been thrice appointed Secretary of State for Delaware. In January, 1832, he was appointed Associate Justice for Sussex County and remained on the Bench until his death in 1836.

The next occupant of The Judge's was Judge Edward Wootten, who had married Judge Robinson's daughter Mary in 1833. He became an Associate Justice for Sussex County in 1831.

Another judge who occupied The Judge's was Judge David Thomas Marvel. He served as Secretary of State for Delaware under Governor Reynolds who, in 1893, appointed him an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. This post he filled acceptably until 1897. His wife was Mary Robinson Wootten, a granddaughter of Judge Edward Wootten and great-granddaughter of Judge Peter Robinson, who had built The Judge's. Judge Henry C. Conrad, a native of New Castle County, and a distinguished Delaware historian lived here for sometime.

OLD CHRIST CHURCH

Broad Creek Hundred, three miles east of Laurel at Chipman's Pond

The roadside historical marker reads:

Old Christ Church
Established on Broad Creek in 1770
As a "Chapel of Ease" of Stepney
Parish, Maryland, on Land Purchased
By a Levy of 80,000 Pounds of
Tobacco. Building Completed by
Robert Holston in 1772 at a Cost
of £510

Christ Church, Broad Creek Hundred, was built in 1770 (finished 1772) as a Chapel of Ease of Stepney Parish in Maryland. Before the Revolutionary War, all the Church of England parishes in the American Colonies were part of the Diocese of London. When a parish had such wide-extended territorial boundaries that many of the members found it difficult, at times well-nigh impossible, to attend the parish church, it was not unusual to build a "Chapel of Ease" in a neighbourhood to accommodate the more distant parishioners. The Chapel of Ease continued under the same Rector as the parish church.

Stepney Parish was originally bounded on the north and west by the Nanticoke River and on the south and east by the Wicomoco River. The land whereon Christ Church Broad Creek, now stands was claimed by Maryland until 1775.



Christ Church, Broad Creek, near Laurel. The exterior is unpainted except the window sashes.



Box-pews of Christ Church, Broad Creek, are all well panelled. The heart-pine planks of the walls and barrel-vaulted roof have acquired a rich color from age.

This church in the northern part of Stepney Parish was closely patterned after the mother church at Green Hill. The chief difference is that the Stepney church is built of brick, while Christ Church is built of wood, and so well built of fine-grained, resinous heart-of-pine planks that it is still in sound and excellent condition. It stands on a slight rise beside Chipman's Pond whose waters enter Broad Creek and eventually flow into the Nanticoke.

Only the white window sashes are painted. The rest of the structure has weathered to the rich golden brown of old pine needles. It seems a natural outgrowth from the pine woods behind it. The interior also is entirely unpainted save for the white window sashes. The wood has taken on a gratifying colour from age.

The tall panelled pulpit, with a sounding-board and the clerk's reading-desk below and in front of it, stands in the traditional place, against the north wall, mid-way the length of the church. At the east end of the church, the altar is a plain table; the railing that surrounds it has slender turned spindles.

At the west end is the slaves' gallery, reached by a stair in the northwest corner. All the pews are of high-backed, square box type with doors, each pew large enough for an whole family; backs, doors and sides of the pews are all panelled. The wooden ceiling is a rather flattened barrel vault.

Altogether, the church as it stands to-day is a striking example of eighteenth-century native workmanship successfully adapting Georgian ecclesiastical tradition and precedent to a worthy expression in wood, the prevalent and only available building material of the region.

Amongst the treasured heirlooms of Christ Church are two old silver chalices. Also, there are two ancient pewter alms basons and a pewter paten. The pewterer was Gleason. A Bible, said to have been presented by Queen Charlotte has disappeared.

Within the shadow of the church are the graves of many former parishioners. Among them is that of Governor Nathaniel Mitchell, who died in 1814.

Christ Church is in the charge of the Rector of St. Philip's Church, Laurel. Several special services each year are held in the old church and people come from long distances to attend them. Regular services have been discontinued since 1850. Cherished family associations with the old church assure care of the building by staunch friends, many of whom now live at a distance.

ROSEMONT

On Delaware Avenue, North Laurel

Rosemont, locally called the Collins house, on Delaware Avenue in North Laurel faces southward towards Broad Creek at the foot of the slope on which the house stands. With its high portico of slender white columns extending up to the eaves, it appears to have been built after the Greek-Revival impulse had permeated popular taste. It is a two-storey-and-attic shingled house of five bays with central hall, two rooms deep, with a rear wing.

Its outward appearance totally belies what it actually is. Rosemont is really a Georgian house, built somewhere about the middle of the eighteenth century, in all likelihood, a little before that. Since then, it has been subjected to successive changes and "improvements" until its original character has been wholly obscured. Externally, the one original feature is the shingle coating of the east end. Alterations, additions and demolitions of the rear wing arrangement have completely obliterated the original plan.

When the portico, the re-designed doorway and the balcony were grafted onto the original body, the external disguise was finished. At that time, as far as the interior went, the "improvers" were content to "let well-enough alone." It was left to the later Victorians to commit almost unbelievable atrocities within doors.

Fine panelling was pulled about and whimsically re-arranged, or discarded. The old stair was torn out and replaced by a golden-oak nightmare, with revoltingly tumid details suggesting a case of mumps, a creation of the worst possible phase of late Victorianism, the "Hohenzollern" phase. Amidst all the defacements, on the ground floor only two original features were left untouched, the front door (not the doorway)



Rosemont, north Laurel, showing a south front view.



Upstairs hall of Rosemont showing the unusual wood partitions.

and the two-leaved or double door at the far end of the hall, opening onto the garden, both of them fine sturdy pieces of panelled construction.

By a most fortunate chance, the "improvers" let the upper floor alone. There the panelling, the doors and the hardware are intact and plainly bespeak the mid-eighteenth century. More than that, the character of the partitions affords an important architectural document. All the partitions, the partitions between the rooms and the partitions between the rooms and the hall, are of vertical boarding, the boards beaded and bevelled. This is a most unusual hold-over from pre-Georgian usage.

In spite of all the mutilations inflicted upon a fine old Georgian body, Rosemont retains a very distinct charm, thanks to the present owners. With sympathetic understanding of eighteenth-century merits, they have gathered and put together in coherent manner the panelling that had been pulled apart and scattered about. A remarkably good corner cupboard, whose former setting had been utterly destroyed, they have put in the only possible place left for it. The horrible stair, so far as it could be done, they have subdued with paint. By these and other tactful touches, they have managed to give Rosemont an atmosphere that suggests the presence of a much-scarred but very benign veteran.

Rosemont, reputed to be the oldest house in Laurel in continuous use, was the home of Governor Nathaniel Mitchell (1753-1814), the sixteenth Governor of Delaware. He succeeded Colonel David Hall and served from 1805 to 1808. During the whole of the Revolutionary War he served with distinction, at first as Adjutant under his uncle, Colonel (later General) John Dagworthy, and finally as Brigadier-Major and Inspector under General Peter Muhlenberg. He was an original Delaware member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

His political career began with his election in 1786 as a Delegate to the Continental Congress. Along with Gunning Bedford, he sat in the Continental Congress until 1788. From the autumn of 1788 to 1805 he was Prothonotary of Sussex County. After his term as Governor, he sat in the Delaware House of Representatives until 1810, when he became a member of the State Senate where he served till 1812.

He died February 21, 1814, after a long illness, and was buried in the churchyard of Old Christ Church, Broad Creek, not far from Laurel.

Rosement has also an indirect connection with another Delaware Governor, John Collins, for at some-time subsequent to March, 1823, it came into the possession of one of the latter's descendants. Hence it has frequently been called the "Collins House" although it is really a Mitchell house.

About 1820, when the Methodist "Circuit Riders" were still actively pursuing their rounds, it is said the "Circuit Preacher" was always welcomed and lodged at Rosemont. It is said, too, that for years afterwards the best bedroom was called the "Preacher's Room."

"SHIP-CARPENTERS' HOUSES"

At end of village street, Bethel

The peaceful little village of Bethel at the southwest corner of Sussex County has two fine examples of domestic architecture created by ship-carpenters. Navigable streams, navigation and ship-building played a major rôle in the early history of Delaware, especially southern Delaware. All the early settlements in southern Delaware were on navigable streams. These streams, with their perennial invitation to trade, naturally called forth a tribe of ship-carpenters. These ship-carpenters, when not building shallops, turned their hands to other employment and plied their deft carpentry to good purpose in house-building.

Two excellent examples of their handiwork are the pair of small eighteenth-century dwellings in Bethel that have always been known as "The Ship-Carpenters' Houses." They stand side by side, facing south, near the end of the village street.

Each consists of a lower one-storey-and-attic part joined to a taller two-storey-and-attic part at the eastern end. The lower part in each case is the older. The dormers are modern additions. The walls are weather-boarded and there are plain box cornices.



Ship-Carpenters Houses at Bethel. The second storey portion in each is a slightly later addition to the one-floor-and-attic part.



Lawrence, Seaford, showing east front. The lower wing at the left is a much older building than the rest of the house.

The chimney tops of both houses are carried out in traditional manner with courses of bricks projecting from the face of the stack and set in such wise as to form neckings and caps.

Tradition, indeed, has been the guide throughout. In the older, lower part of each house, the core of the structure has been the "Resurrection Manor plan," with added rooms. The later and taller parts of both houses have been treated as additional added rooms.

The pine woodwork of the interiors is exceedingly simple. There has been no attempt at Georgian panelling or other like amenities. At the fireplace, beside the closed winding stair to the attic, the chimney breast is covered with vertical pine boarding, each board beaded and neatly fitted to its neighbour.

It is said there were originally three ship-carpenters' houses in Bethel and that the owners vied with each other in showing their skill as builders. One of these three has disappeared. The remaining two are carefully looked after by appreciative occupants.

Although these houses may have no associations of great historic import in the way of occupants or events, they recall a capable and worthy race of artisans who in their day contributed substantially to the sound structure and comeliness of Sussex County architecture.

LAWRENCE

On right hand side of U.S. Route 13, going south, Seaford

Lawrence, at the northern edge of Seaford, is a reminder of the days when Seaford was a busy shipping centre. Seaford, in Delaware's Sussex County, was named for Seaford in Sussex, in England, whence came some of the early settlers.

At the head of navigation on the Nanticoke River, the town was laid out in 1799 at what was then known as Hooper's Landing. It soon became a flourishing ship-building and shipping port, and this nautical prosperity continued unabated until 1856 when the coming of the railroad struck a serious blow at Nanticoke River shipping. Prosperity, however, was merely given a different direction, for new commercial and industrial enterprises soon developed and have maintained and furthered Seaford's prosperity to the present day.

While the town was in the early stages of lusty growth, three brothers came thither from nearby in Maryland. They soon became affluent as traders and shippers and, about 1840, one of them, Charles Wright, built Lawrence.

Standing a little way back from the road that becomes Seaford's principal street, Lawrence makes a brave appearance as a temple-fronted dwelling, surrounded by tall trees. It is entirely a wooden structure, in accordance with good Sussex tradition. The house faces east.

The low one-storey-and-attic wing on the south side is a building much older than the rest of the house. The three-bay central part, two rooms deep, with four-columned portico and pediment, and the one-storey-and-attic wing on the north, date from about 1840 and show all the early Victorian characteristics that accompanied the current stage of the Greek-Revival style.

By 1840, domestic Greek-Revival design, in many cases, had lost much of its Greek identity. Beyond a so-called temple front, with columned portico and pediment, there was nothing Greek about it. The columns were square, panelled uprights, with square bases and square box capitals, which no Greek would have recognised as Greek columns. Nor would he have recognised the disposition of the frieze. The pediment was Greek only in its general outlines.

The main dwelling part of the temple at Lawrence, the *cella*, to use the Greek term for the enclosed interior of the Greek temple, is a comfortable abode with hall and stair, and two large rooms at the south side of the hall, a wide folding door between them. The marble mantels are of Victorian design. To the south of the parlours is the dining-room, in the older part of the house. This older part of the house, which contains also kitchens, has been much altered from its original state.



Governor Ross House as Seaford from the south front which was designed in the so-called "Italian Villa" style.



Cannon Hall at village of Woodland, formerly Cannon's Ferry. Note the character of the lintols in this south front view.

Despite or, perhaps, because of its failure to meet the archaeological standards of the Greek-Revival mode, and the unavoidable disparity between heroic and human scale, the *toute ensemble* of Lawrence has achieved a reassuring and comfortable quality of domesticity.

ROSS HOUSE

Northern edge of Seaford

On the northern edge of Seaford is the house built by Governor William H. Ross who became the thirty-seventh Governor of Delaware in 1850. He was then thirty-six years old and was the youngest man who had ever held the Governorship.

He was already a man of extensive reading with a cosmopolitan outlook and of a disposition towards travel. Possessed of ample means, he was able to gratify his inclination for travel overseas, and both before and after his term as Governor he travelled extensively in Europe.

One of his interests lay in the direction of architecture. As a result of this prepossession, about the middle of the century he made a contribution to the domestic architecture of Delaware that introduced an hitherto almost unknown element in the State's architectural story.

It was an era of romanticism that had been largely induced and fostered by Sir Walter Scott's tremendously popular novels. This spirit of romanticism had shown visible evidence in America in the early 1840's. In 1842, for example, John Notman had designed an addition to Boothhurst in the Victorian "Cottage Gothick" manner, and there were dozens of other instances of the same romantic trend throughout the land. Furthermore, the Greek-Revival impulse had spent its force, and though Greek-Revival, or would-be Greek-Revival, efforts continued to appear, the inspiration had petered out and gone stale.

Impelled by observation at close quarters, Ross conceived a deep admiration for the "Italian Villa" type of house. This type of rural dwelling had already taken root in England and acquired all manner of fanciful touches that it would be hard to trace to any really Italian precedent. The new mode was an eclectic *pot-pourri* that gave unlimited scope to inject "imaginative" odds and ends, far-fetched and wholly foreign to the sources whence inspiration was professedly derived.

Probably fed up by some of the recent Greek-Revival achievements, or possibly disappointed with "Cottage Gothick," Ross fell a victim to the popular passion for novelty and decided on the "Italian Villa" mode as desirable for a fine country house.

The house he built at Seaford was an elaborate creation from which the virtue of simplicity is wholly absent. With the illustration in full view, a detailed verbal analysis of the exterior would be pointless. The picture speaks for itself. The interior is equally complex and intricate.

CANNON HALL

State Route 536, Seaford Hundred

The village of Woodland, six miles below Seaford, on the Nanticoke River was formerly called Cannon's Ferry. A century ago it was one of the most widely known points in Sussex. From the latter part of the eighteenth century a ferry across the river was kept there, the right of operation first granted in 1793.

Cannon's Ferry at one time was the centre of trading and shipping interests for much of the country round about, on both sides of the river. Railroads and motor transportation have supplanted sailing craft; in southern and eastern Delaware, once busy wharves have rotted and fallen into the water. Cannon's Ferry to-day is but the ghost of its former self.

Facing the river, and but a stone's throw from the water, is Cannon Hall. Built about 1820, it harks back to an earlier tradition of domestic architecture and bears no suggestion of the Regency or Federal manner of that period. It is a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic structure with central hall, a hold-over of Georgian precedent deeply imbedded in the consciousness and preference of rural Delaware. At the south end is a one-storey wing.

Being in Sussex, the house is built entirely of wood, save for the brick foundations. The walls are weather-boarded. All the exterior details, as well as the interior woodwork, are well designed and carefully finished. In Southern Delaware houses of Georgian provenance, the lintols above the windows are of wood, painted white because of the difficulty, oftentimes impossibility, of getting marble or suitable stone. At Cannon Hall the builder took advantage of his material to fashion the lintols' crestings in elaborate Cupid's-bow lines.

The story of Cannon Hall is tragic. It was built for Jacob Cannon (1781-1843). He never lived in it. Jilted at the last minute by his fiancée, he was so embittered that the house he had just finished with utmost care stood empty for more than twenty years.

Jacob Cannon and his brother Isaac appear to have been the Cannon brothers whom George Alfred Townsend introduced in *The Entailed Hat* as undercover aiders and abettors of Patty Cannon in her diabolical slave trade. Whether they were accessory to Patty Cannon's misdeeds or not, the Cannon brothers made themselves cordially hated by their neighbours. Shrewd merchants and traders as they were, with a fleet of sailing vessels plying back and forth to Baltimore, they amassed great wealth. Not content with riches legitimately gained, the generally-accepted story is that they resorted to heartless usury and acquired farm after farm by merciless foreclosure till they controlled thousand of acres.

Jacob Cannon met his death in 1843. He accused a former henchman of Patty Cannon's of stealing a bee gum tree from one of his farms. The man shot Cannon as he stood on the ferry landing, and escaped "under the eyes of condoning neighbours." Isaac Cannon died soon afterward.



Walnut Landing on the banks of the Nanticoke River. This is one of the two early brick houses in Sussex County. The brickwork is exceptionally good; the dormer is a recent addition.

WALNUT LANDING

On banks of Nanticoke River, about a mile southwest of Woodland (Cannon's Ferry)

One of the most fascinating and intriguing of the old houses in Sussex County is Walnut Landing, right on the banks of the Nanticoke River.

Very little can be said of its history with any degree of certainty. The part of the county in which it stands is a region of mixed, obscured and often overlapping titles; some of them for grants made by Lord Baltimore, some by the Duke of York's Government, and some by the Penn Government. From this welter it is well-nigh impossible to trace a clear and continuous title. Part of the boundary between Maryland and this portion of Sussex was not definitely settled till about 1775.

When the present occupants rescued Walnut Landing from complete destruction, the house was in the last stages of dilapidation. It had long been deserted. Weather-worn, looted and damaged by hoodlums, the only intact piece of movable woodwork was the door that closes the winding stair beside the fireplace. Everything else had either been broken to bits or carried off.

The whole frame wing was so ruinous that repair was out of the question. So much had to be replaced that it became virtually a complete restoration. Fortunately, all the damaged parts could be replaced exactly as they had been, and every evidence of plan and structure was scrupulously preserved.

The brick part of the house is a one-storey-and-attic structure with a gabled roof of steep pitch. On a line with the box cornice, four courses of bricks, with a very slight projection from the wall surface, are carried across the gable-end in the manner of a belt course. Above this, the gable-end is patterned with convergent lines of black headers, parallel with the slopes of the roof.

On the ground floor there is only one room, with a fireplace and a closed stair winding up beside it. Above are two small bedrooms. Here, again, is the "Resurrection Manor plan," already discussed in the Introduction and in connection with the house at White Meadow Farm. The "added" room, in the frame wing, is reached by a door at the other side of the fireplace from the stair. The woodwork is all of very simple pattern and obviously early.

All that can be said with reasonable confidence is that Walnut Landing appears to have been built by people who came up from Maryland, as so many did in the early days of Sussex. That it was built very early in the eighteenth century, most likely about 1710, and that the bricks, for reasons already pointed out were obviously brought from Maryland by water.

CAUSEY HOUSE

The Plaza, South Milford

The Causey House, as it is commonly called, facing the Plaza in South Milford, is one of the great houses of Sussex County. It was originally a Georgian five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house with a central hall. It is said to have been designed in 1763 by an English architect named Mitchell, and was one of the first, if not the first, Georgian house in the county.

From what remains visible of the house as it was when first built, it must have been a handsome dwelling that would stand favourable comparison with other Georgian houses elsewhere in the Middle Colonies. The beautifully moulded bricks of the water table would alone be a sufficient index to the character of the whole structure.

This fine house was built in 1763 for Levin Crapper, or Cropper, who owned all the land on which South Milford now stands. He was noted for years as the wealthiest man in Sussex County. His lands numbered many thousands of acres and his fortune was estimated at £37,000 Pennsylvania currency, very substantial wealth for those days.

The next owner of the property was Daniel Rogers who later became the twelfth Governor of Delaware, filling that office from the death of Gunning Bedford, in 1796, until the end of 1799. Daniel Rogers was born in Accomac County, Virginia, in 1754. On reaching his majority, about 1775, he bought Levin Crapper's holdings and lived in the Milford Georgian house. He farmed his lands intelligently; he built the "Brick Granary" on Cedar Creek, four miles from Milford; and he engaged in milling interests in Milford. He died in 1806.

Peter F. Causey, who was to become in 1854 the thirty-eighth Governor of Delaware, came as a lad to

Milford with his father in 1815. Father and son engaging in business, they were highly successful. In 1825 Peter succeeded to the business. He not only established and conducted a large mercantile trade in Milford, but also undertook mining ore in large quantities from his own land in Nanticoke Hundred. This he shipped in his own vessels to Philadelphia. He invested extensively in real estate and likewise had considerable milling interests.

Blessed with signal prosperity, it was natural that he should acquire the fine house that had belonged to Daniel Rogers. About 1841 he retired from mercantile business and devoted his time to his mills, his tannery, and his landed interests. At that time he held more than 1500 acres. He was active in restoring the agricultural prosperity of Delaware. In 1849, when the first State agricultural society was formed, he was its president.

About the time he became Governor, Peter Causey was seized with a passion for building and fell a victim to the Greek-Revival mania which had proved a blight to many an old Delaware house, houses of both Georgian and pre-Georgian types.

He completely transformed the Georgian house of 1763 into what the taste of the time approved as elegant and appropriate. He replaced the original pitched roof and attic by a low third storey with a flattish roof, surmounted by a railed deck. The small third-storey windows were adorned with intricate iron grillwork. The southwest wing displayed an enclosure of tall white square columns; and a portico with Ionic columns was built before the house-door. It is still an impressive house, but it is regrettable, that what was once a really fine house was transformed to a type fundamentally unsuited to domestic use. The Greek-Revival style is suitable for large, monumental public buildings, but there are few instances where it has proved fully satisfactory and comfortable in adaptation to the domestic field.

CANNON BALL HOUSE

Corner Front and Bank Streets (David Rowland House), Lewes

A house sheathed with cypress shingles, built prior to 1797. Much altered from original condition. Now a place of business. A sign indicates the patched place in the brick foundation where a cannon shot struck during the bombardment of Lewes in 1813.

REGISTER HOUSE

Corner Third and Knitting (Mulberry) Streets, Lewes

A long, low shingled dwelling, used by the first Methodist congregation in Lewes. Built about 1790.

DANIEL RODNEY HOUSE

231 Second Street, Lewes

A cypress-shingled house painted white, built about 1800. The home of Daniel Rodney, Judge 1793-1806; nineteenth Governour of Delaware, 1814-1817. The *Breakwater Light*, a newspaper, printed for many years in rear of house.

ORTON HOUSE

Pilottown Road, Lewes

Shingled house said to have been built about 1700. Typical of small houses occupied by pilots living on Pilottown Road.

WILLIAM RUSSELL HOUSE

Pilottown Road, Lewes

Shingled house, much altered, built about 1790. Good interior woodwork. Wine cellars under house where wine made by a shipwrecked Frenchman was stored.

LOCUST GROVE

About mid-way between Greenwood and the Maryland line

House stands back from the road, at the end of a long avenue. Partly frame and partly brick. The brick part built about 1820. Good panelling and other woodwork.

SUDLER HOUSE

At Bridgeville, on south side of Main Street, just west of U.S. Route 13

Early nineteenth century. In good original condition.

COOL SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

State Route 18, about 7 miles east of Georgetown, side road on left leads to church

White frame structure of 1855 architecturally good; the third church building on or near the same site since 1728.

ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL

Indian River Hundred. State Route 24, just south of Angola, side road on right for about two miles; again right on another side road, churchyard and church on left

Brick church of 1794, built to replace earlier wooden church of 1728, burnt in 1792. Very much modernised in 1883.

HOPKINS HOUSE

West of State Route 14, on road from Overbrook to Milton

Timber construction, sheathed with cypress shingles. *c.* 1750. Hand-hewn chamfered beams; good panelling. House in excellent condition, but so altered for modern convenience that original arrangement is not obvious.

BENJAMIN WHITE HOUSE

West of State Route 14, on road from Oyster Rocks to Milton

Timber construction, sheathed with cypress shingles. About middle of eighteenth century. Many interior alterations.

KENT COUNTY



Town Point, near Kitts Hummock, *circa* 1675. The brickwork is admirable and intact. Note the stepped water-table. The frame upper storey is an early nineteenth century defacement.



The State House at Dover as it appeared in 1873 following alterations.

TOWN POINT

Southeast of Dover for five miles on U.S. Route 113 to Kitt's Hummock Road. East on Kitt's Hummock Road three miles on the right

About a mile west of Kitt's Hummock, a long dirt lane runs south from the paved road. Part of the way, as it passes through a dense growth of trees and bushes, it is practically impassable in wet weather. At the end of this lane, and near the mouth of St. Jones Creek, is a derelict old house in a sorry state of decay, surrounded by a thicket of briers, brambles and weeds. The ground floor is brick; the upper storey frame.

The house, as originally built, was unquestionably a one-storey-and-attic structure, the slope of the roof beginning directly above the ground-floor walls. The frame upper structure was an "improvement" blown up in the early nineteenth century, as its remains plainly show, and looks like a badly swelled head.

The brickwork, Flemish-bond with black headers, is as fine as any in Delaware, as fine, indeed, as any to be found in all the region embraced in the old Middle Colonies. The brick walls are still sound. As there was no upper storey, only the roof over the attic, and hence no place for a belt course, the builders contrived a bit of refinement by stepping the watertable at the corners with its topping of moulded bricks.

The interior and the upper storey are ruinous. Through the years the house has been so maltreated that one can only conjecture what its successive interior arrangements may have been. All that can now be said with certainty is that the brick structure was built at two separate dates, probably very close together on the evidence of division lines in the masonry. Also, that the ground-floor plan of the original structure was the same as at Resurrection Manor or at White Meadow Farm.

This house was the first seat of government in Kent County, under the Duke of York's Government. In 1680 it was the dwelling of Edward Pack, an early magistrate, who here held the first courts of St. Jones County, as Kent County was then called.

Not many years later, Pack sold "all the land, dwelling-house and tobacco-house" to William Darvall for 1200 pounds of tobacco. This must have been after 1687, for in that year Darvall is recorded as a member of Council for Sussex County. Darvall also, like Pack, was a magistrate or Justice of the Peace, and after he bought the place from Pack he performed his magisterial duties under the Penn Government.

Apart from his function as a magistrate, Darvall drew a yearly stipend of "40 in current maney" to run a ferry from his house to the opposite side of St. Jones Creek, with the understanding also that he employ a man to keep a tavern, dispense "all liquirs at retail" and "dispose of all manner of trade whatsoever."

THE OLD STATE HOUSE

East side of The Green, Dover

The Old State House in Dover is the visible result of an evolution, an evolution of conditions and incidents going back to the time when the Three Lower Counties were under the Duke of York's Government. And the end is not yet. In this Year of Grace, 1962, a programme of restorations and planned development is in progress.

From 1680 to 1690 the old house at Town Point served as the seat of government in Kent County. In 1690, the seat of Kent County administration was moved to James Maxwell's tavern, on a portion of Berry's Range on the east side of St. Jones Creek, near the eastern edge of present-day Dover.

In August, 1694, there was trouble. The Kent County Justices of the Peace sent word to the Lieutenant-Governour and Council, in Philadelphia, that

> "att the time when their Last Courts of quart^{r} Sessions & common pleas should have been held according to their last adjournment, the sd Geo Martin and Daniel Jones appeared att the place appointed & wer willing to hold court, but Jn^{o} Curtes, another of the justices, wold not sett, & Jn^{o} Betts, another justice, sent word by a Constable y^{t} hee wold never sitt there, meaning at James Maxwell's, att the Head of St. Jones's, wherfor they look on yo^{r} commissions as void; And there being several actions of moment depending, they request the Lt. Gov^{r} to give new commissions."

The Lieutenant-Governour, after consulting the Council, replied that "his Excellencye's commissions are in force, notwithstanding the said Justice's neglect," ordered them to "hold their courts accordingly," and directed that the provincial Judges in their next circuit:

> "doe Inspect and Inquire into the disorders in the County of Kent, in reference to the time & places of holding their Courts, & to see what may be the most proper place in the sd Countie to hold their Courts in, for the most universall care of the sd Countie, and make report to the Lt. Gov^{r} and Council."

The provincial Judges, after consulting with the magistrates, grand jury and others, unanimously agreed that the County Courts should be "held on some part of y^{e} land belonging to W^{m} Southerby." Two hundred acres of the said land were purchased in November, 1694 for £25.00 0. 0. and conveyed to the County of Kent, February 4, 1695.

In 1697 a Court House was built on the spot where the present Court House stands, at the southeast corner of South State Street and The Green, but the Town of Dover itself had not yet been laid out.

In May, 1699, the inhabitants of Kent County petitioned the Council at Philadelphia, asking that the "land on which the Court House stands" be erected into a township . . . with a common or market place, with streets and public buildings; that a fair might be held twice a year; and that the place be called "Canterbury." The petition was granted, June 20, 1699, except for the name, which was declared to be "Dover."

All this pother and confusion about a meeting-place for the Kent County Courts would never have taken place had Penn's warrant of August, 1683, been promptly heeded, a warrant bidding the surveyor of "y^{e} counties of Kent and Sussex to lay out in y^{e} land appointed for y^{e} town of Dover in y^{e} county of Kent" a sufficient plot, with provision for "y^{e} Court House and Prison."

Penn's warrant, it is true, contained no order regarding the exact location of the Town of Dover. This may, to some extent, explain the delay. It seems likely, however, that the known intention and efforts to create a town at Town Point had something to do with the postponement of carrying out Penn's order.

It was not until 1717 that definite action was taken to lay out the town. By Act of the General Assembly of the Three Lower Counties three Commissioners were appointed to "lay out into lots the two hundred acre tract adjoining the court house in Kent County," and the survey was to be completed by March 10, 1718. The Commissioners saw to it that Penn's instructions anent the Court House and the long street were observed. The King's Road from Philadelphia to Lewes went through the plot, past the Court House, and has continued to be the main street (South State Street) of Dover.

In 1722, the lot "whereon the old Court House [of 1697] now stands" was sold and the King George Inn subsequently took its place. It was then that a new and larger Court House was built where the State House now stands.

This second Court House, of 1722, served all during the Revolutionary period and became the State House as well in 1777, when Dover was made the State Capital.

By 1787 the facilities of the old Court House built in 1722 were no longer adequate for the needs of both the County Courts and the Legislature. In December, 1787, the Levy Court of Kent County authorised Charles Ridgely, Eleazer McComb and Nehemiah Tilton, who were the Commissioners appointed to erect a new building, "to pull down the old Court House and use the hard bricks for the foundation of the new building as there was not sufficient money for a stone foundation." Thus the present State House has its "roots," so to speak, in the Court House of 1722.

Lack of sufficient appropriated funds delayed the completion of the building and it finally took the proceeds of a deferred lottery to have the new Court House ready for occupancy in 1792. Even then, workmen were still engaged in finishing parts of the interior.

It is reported that in May of that year, Sheriff John Clayton, by order of the Levy Court, entered the Assembly Chamber with drawn sword and demanded its surrender to the workmen. The General Assembly

thereupon adjourned in a huff to Hale's tavern at Duck Creek Cross Roads and passed a resolution to make Duck Creek Cross Roads thenceforward the State Capital! The State Senate took a calmer view of the matter, the wounded dignity of the assemblymen was soothed, and since November, 1792, the State Legislature has met in the State House.

The designers of the Old State House evidently derived some of their inspiration from looking at the State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, and the old Court House in New Castle. They produced a handsome late Middle-Georgian structure with enough Palladian amenities to contribute dignity and interest, and to ensure desirable accent. The Flemish-bond brickwork of the front and the Liverpool-bond brickwork of the sides are beyond criticism. The marble topping of the water-table, and the carefully cut lintols above the windows are evidence of a determination to have all details unexceptionable.

The Old State House remained a structure of grace and dignity until in 1873, during Governor Ponder's administration, it fell a victim to Victorian ignorance and ill-taste. The "improvements" to which it was subjected included a mansard roof, "in the worst French taste"; a box-like cupola to replace the belfry tower. The bell, which had rung in Independence in 1776, and had announced all public meetings, was put in the State Library; a coat of French grey paint on the brick walls; and a coat of dark chocolate brown paint to cover the white marble lintols, other items of white marble, the doorway, the Palladian window, and the window frames! The drastic changes inside the building were equally ignorant and hideous.

When Governor Miller came into office in the early years of the twentieth century, the Federal Government repaid the State of Delaware the money borrowed during the War of 1812, with accrued interest. Thereupon, some of the "forward-looking" legislators set out "to tear down this old building which has seen its best days, and build a nice, new CEMENT building on the west side of The Green"!

At this critical juncture the Colonial Dames sought the Governor's permission to have a survey of the Old State House made, with a view to restoration. Edward L. Tilton, of New York, of the firm then designing libraries for Andrew Carnegie, made the survey and reported that complete restoration was perfectly feasible. The Colonial Dames then petitioned the Governor to have the Old State House restored.

The Legislature at first was furious. They insisted a new cement building should be put up and the old building demolished. In the bitter battle for preservation the Colonial Dames finally won out. The Legislature later consented to engage Mr. Tilton for the restoration.

Mr Tilton was anxious to save another venerable building, the home of Chief-Justice Samuel Chew, father of Chief-Justice Benjamin Chew of Pennsylvania, which stood where the State Law Library now stands. This idea did not please the cement-minded members of the Legislature and they told the Colonial Dames:

> "If you don't stop talking about saving this old building, we will not consent to any of this restoration. However, if you will consent to destroy the Chew property, we will allow the Old State House to be restored."

This was the best deal they could make, and the Colonial Dames consented, though reluctantly.

The interior of the Old State House, in sharp contrast with its handsome Georgian exterior, is still a debased jumble of abominations devised by the nineteenth-century "improvers," quite in keeping with and dependent upon the be-columned "excrescence" on the south end of the original building.

With the new State Government buildings in the Georgian manner, suitably disposed in the ample open area east of The Green, and with the growing public consciousness of architectural fitness, is it too much to hope that plans to restore the interior of the Old State House, bringing it once more into conformity with the exterior, may be carried out?

The Old State House is the second oldest State building in the Country, still in use, and for that reason alone deserves respectful and patriotic consideration. Over and beyond that, it is a public monument of grace and dignity in which not only the people of Dover but every citizen of the State of Delaware may feel proper pride.

CHRIST CHURCH, DOVER

South State and Water Streets

Christ Church in Dover is the oldest and most important Episcopal church in Kent County.

The records of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts show that, in 1703, there was sent

> "A memorial to the Bishop of London, signed by twenty-two Inhabitants of Dover, representing the increase of sin and crime and the consequent great want of a Minister of the Gospel."

This petition for a parson was followed in 1704 by a memorial stating that they had subscribed "£55. 17. 0. for the Minister's subsistence."

In 1704, also, Colonel Robert French contributed a glebe of 110 acres on St. Jones River. Colonel French, though a Scot, was a Church of England man and one of the founders of Immanuel Church at New Castle.

At last, in 1705, arrived the Reverend Thomas Crawford to be the missionary not only for Dover but for the whole of Kent County. While living at Dover, he married the daughter of Arthur Medstone (or Meston); the daughter born of this union became the mother of Caesar Rodney.

In 1711 Mr. Crawford returned to England, "leaving no very good name behind him," it is said, "and apparently having done the church no very great good." He did, however, report to the S.P.G.: "Our church is near finished. It is all glazed and almost full of pews." The first church was a little wooden structure.

The next incumbent was a misfit, equally unacceptable to Church people and to the Dissenters in the neighbourhood, and had to be removed. How the S.P.G. ever came to engage him is somewhat of a mystery.

For a long time after this there was no regular parson and the Dover congregation had to get along as best it could with the occasional ministrations of whatever missionaries could come to their aid at irregular intervals. In 1722 there was a wail "We have since 1711 been wholly destitute."



Christ Church, Dover, from the west end and south side showing the especially fine brickwork laid in Flemish-bond with black headers.

Notwithstanding repeated petitions and appeals, it was not until 1733, twenty-two years since Mr. Crawford's departure, that another missionary was sent to Dover. Then the Reverend George Frazer, the newly-arrived parson of the Dover Parish, reported that "they have begun a subscription to build a new brick church at Dover, and have subscribed about £100 . . . the former church being an old boarded house, so ruinous that it is not fit to be repaired." In 1734 he reported: "the new brick church at Dover is begun. The walls are finished, and if the undertaker had not died, it would have been covered in before winter."

In 1740, the Reverend Arthur Usher, Mr. Frazer's successor, writes that at his first arrival, "there was a new brick church begun, which is now finished."

Then in 1742, he notes that: "the church at Dover is not yet finished, but I hope it will not be long before it will be."

In the next few years something must have gone very much agley with the brick structure for, in November, 1750, the Reverend Hugh Neill reports "Dover Church is in a miserable condition. It looks more like a refuge for Wild Beasts than a House dedicated to y^{e} service of God." After that, we hear little more about the church building and its condition for a number of years.

In 1758 the Reverend Charles Inglis became Rector of Christ Church and proved a most acceptable, conscientious and efficient pastor. During the six years of his incumbency the parish flourished and the congregation increased in numbers and vitality. In 1764 Mr. Inglis married Mary Vining. He removed in 1766 to Trinity Parish in New York City, greatly regretted in spite of his strongly pro-British sentiments.

Mr. Inglis was followed, in 1767, by the Reverend Samuel Magaw who, politically, was the other side up with care. After some years he became Rector of St. Paul's Church, in Philadelphia, a notoriously Whig parish.

During the Revolutionary War, and for a number of years afterwards, Christ Church, along with many other parishes, suffered a good deal of obloquy from ardent Whigs. To them the Church of England was anathema and the Episcopal Church, its child, came in for the hostility directed at the parent.

For the whole first half of the nineteenth century, in fact, a good many parishes were in a more or less somnolent condition. Before the War Between the States, Bishop Lee pictured Christ Church in a rueful plight.

Then came a marked awakening. The household of the church was set in order. After extensive alterations made in 1859 that "entirely changed the internal appearance of the church, and somewhat the external also," Christ Church was consecrated on Ascension Day, 1860. Later alterations have changed it still more.

Before the alterations of 1859, Christ Church remained pretty much as it was during the second half of the eighteenth century. The main entrance was in the middle of the south side. Over the door was a gallery which extended along the whole south side of the interior. This gallery was lighted by a window in the east end of the church; the stair to it was at the west end. Against the north wall, opposite the south door, was the high pulpit, with the reading desk and clerk's desk below it, while overhead the sounding-board was suspended by a heavy iron rod. The altar, beneath the window at the east end, was merely railed off. The high pews were in blocks and were floored; the aisles were paved with brick. In other words, the whole arrangement was that usually found in the Colonial churches of the eighteenth century.

The chancel was not added at the east end till 1887. There have been various changes since then, but the old church, in its walled churchyard, surrounded by the graves of many of Dover's most beloved and honoured citizens, still preserves the indelible dignity and sincerity bestowed by its eighteenth-century sponsors.

OLD ACADEMY

South State Street and Elm Terrace, Dover

John Banning, saddler, on June 10th, 1766, bought of the Dover Commissioners a lot on King Street (now State) extending to South Street and eastward to East Street. Soon afterwards he built thereon a dwelling.

Born in 1739, John Banning was about twenty-seven when he bought the lot on State Street. Subsequent to his first purchase, he acquired thirteen lots "south and east of the Rev. Charles Inglis." These were close to the land on which Christ Church stands.

In the dwelling he built on the first-purchased lot, John Banning also kept a store. This store-dwelling structure of the mid-eighteenth century is now known as the Old Academy. George Purnell Fisher, in his *Recollections of Dover in 1824*, written in 1896 for his granddaughter, Mrs. Henry Ridgely, says:

> "Next comes the Old Academy . . . . I have heard that it was built by John Banning, the maternal grandfather of Edward Ridgely, for a store and dwelling. It certainly was used as a store, for it had the old hooks and other store fixtures in the cellar where were kept hung up, hams, shoulders, middlings, and the old time loaves of sugar and numerous other articles of trade."

During the Revolutionary War John Banning was active in public affairs. In 1775 he was a member of the Boston Relief Committee and also a member of the Committee of Correspondence. He had evidently built up a substantial mercantile business for his name appears repeatedly in the commissary accounts in the war years. For a time he was a member of the State Legislature, and he was a Justice of the Peace for Kent County. He died in 1791 at the age of fifty-two, leaving a substantial estate.

John A. Banning, the son of John Banning, was an infant at the time of his father's death. Upon the settlement of his father's estate in 1805, he received the State Street dwelling and store as part of his share.

In January, 1810, in response to a petition to the Delaware General Assembly for the establishment of an Academy at Dover, the State Legislature passed an Act to incorporate Dover Academy and authorised the trustees to raise the sum of $10,000 by lottery to provide the necessary funds. The trustees named were Thomas Clayton, Andrew Naudain, Peter Caverly, Cornelius P. Comegys, Richard Cooper, James Harper, John Fisher, Willard Hall (subsequently the father of the Public School system of Delaware), James Sykes, William McClyment, Nathaniel Smithers, and Henry M. Ridgely.

In March, 1816, John A. Banning and his wife sold to Henry M. Ridgely, John Clarke and Willard Hall certain lots in Dover, along with a "large brick house and messuage" which had been John Banning's residence and place of business. While nothing in the deed so states, a reasonable inference is that the purchasers wanted the building, at least in part, for school purposes, since both Mr. Ridgely and Mr. Hall were among the trustees, authorized by legislation in 1810, to raise funds for an Academy at Dover. It is, therefore, logical to conclude that Dover Academy forthwith began to function and occupied the Old Academy, or at least a part of it, for school purposes till some years after the passage of the Free School Law in 1829.

By February 6, 1824, John Clarke had died. On that date his administrator, together with Henry M. Ridgely, Willard Hall and their wives, sold the house and about three-quarters of an acre to the Trustees of Dover Academy.

A restriction in the 1824 deed indicates several of the uses to which the building was put at that time. One clause reads,

> ". . . . and also, sold and granted to certain persons upon Trust for the Lodge of Free Masons in Dover a room on the second floor or storey of the said house, to wit, the north room on said storey, being that immediately over or above the room now occupied as a school room with a right of passage to and from said room."

In 1832 the house was still in use as a private school. In that year a portion of it was assigned to the public school. This arrangement continued for a number of years, but there is some uncertainty as to exactly when the schools vacated the building.

By 1863 the house was in possession of the Odd Fellows, who rented their quarters there from 1863 to 1865 for temporary public school use, pending the completion of a new schoolhouse.

The Old Academy has also a connection with the religious life of Dover. Before a Roman Catholic Church was built, Father Edward Ignatius Taylor celebrated the first mass in the Old Academy on May 8, 1870.

After serving a diversity of purposes in more than two hundred years, the Old Academy no longer figures in any public capacity. For a long time past its function has been purely residential.

Substantially built of brick to begin with, the Old Academy is now a stuccoed structure, painted a light yellow. On a high base, it is of two-storey-and-attic height, but has no dormers. It is two full rooms deep. The front, which has a plain box cornice, has four full-sized windows on the upper floor; on the lower floor there are two somewhat smaller windows at the north and south end of the front and, between them, two separate narrow doors close together.

This arrangement suggests alterations that must have been made in all the years of varied occupancies. The varied uses and occupancies, with successive alterations and adaptations, render it pointless to discuss what may have been the original plan.

The building is devoid of distinguishing architectural characteristics that would invite attention or merit praise. Yet it has a reassuring air of unassuming, comfortable, kindly dignity, like a genial, somewhat stout, and elderly dowager.

RIDGELY HOUSE

The Green, north side, east of State Street, Dover

The Ridgely house, facing The Green in Dover, was built in 1728. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick structure, originally of four-bay width. An addition in 1767 at the west end made a frontage six bays wide. The rear wing was added in 1764. The brickwork of the south front, facing The Green, is laid in Flemish-bond with black headers. The west and east walls are stuccoed over the brick.

The plan of the house, as first built, is the pre-Georgian plan that came into southern Delaware from Virginia and Maryland. It corresponds exactly with the plan of an early house at St. Mary's City, a natural precedent for the Southern builder to follow. The plan also coincides in fundamental features with the plan of Resurrection Manor, in St. Mary's County, Maryland, and likewise with the plan of the original part of White Meadow Farm, in Sussex County. The said fundamental features being one large oblong room with a fireplace, besides which a winding stair (usually closed off by a door above the lower steps) ascended to the several bedrooms above. Additions to this plan might consist of one or, oftentimes, two adjacent rooms opening off from the one original oblong room. In the original structure, the rooms have admirable panelling and other woodwork characteristic of the period.

In many instances, as at the Ridgely house the rooms adjoining the oblong nucleus were built at the outset. The library or sitting-room at the Ridgely house represents the oblong nucleus; the present parlour and the dining-room open from it respectively at the east end and the west side.

Thomas Parke, who built the house, was apparently of the Parke and Custis Virginia connection. He was High Sheriff of Kent County from 1758 to 1760. His son, Colonel John Parke, of Revolutionary repute, was educated at Oxford and wrote a volume of verse entitled *The Lyric Works of Horace translated into English to which are added a Number of Original Poems. By a Native of America.* The book is now a rare item sought by collectors.

The Ridgelys of Delaware descend from Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely, born at Annapolis in 1694. He was the grandson of Colonel Henry Ridgely, who came from England in 1659 and founded the Ridgely family in Maryland. Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely was the son of Henry Ridgely and Katherine Greenberry, daughter of Governour Nicholas Greenberry. In 1711 when he was but seventeen, Nicholas married Sarah Worthington, a daughter of Colonel John Worthington. Ten years later he was a widower. Under the weight of his bereavements and the changed atmosphere of his paternal home, he left Maryland and came into Delaware.

In 1723 he was living near New Castle, where he married Ann French, who lived only a few years and left him with several motherless daughters. About 1735 he was living at Salem, New Jersey. There, in 1736, he married a widow with two small children; Mary, the widow of Captain Benjamin Vining and daughter



Ridgely House facing on Dover Green.

of Judge Hugh Middleton. Not long afterwards, with his new family, including his own infant son, Charles Greenberry, Nicholas settled in Dover.

Thence onward Nicholas took an active part in politics. Soon after his arrival in Dover he became a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Three Lower Counties and continued in that office until his death in 1755. In 1745, Caesar Rodney, still a minor, chose Nicholas Ridgely to be his guardian.

Having bought land west of Dover, in 1749 Nicholas Ridgely built and moved into the brick plantation house thereon. This was Eden Hill, the plantation Charles Greenberry Ridgely inherited from his father.

The foregoing explanatory interlude has been necessary because the stories of the House on The Green and of Eden Hill are so inseparably associated and because the people who have lived in them have been so identified with the public life of Delaware through a long period of years. Also, houses cannot be dissociated from the people who lived in them.

Charles Greenberry Ridgely studied medicine in Philadelphia under Dr. Phineas Bond. In 1758 he returned to Dover to practice. He married Mary Wynkoop, of Philadelphia, in June, 1761. At the death of his mother in December of the same year, he came into possession of Eden Hill.

Finding it inconvenient to practise from Eden Hill, in 1767 Dr. Ridgely moved into the old Parke dwelling on The Green and shortly afterwards bought it from Thomas Parke's estate. It was at this time that the western addition was made, affording the Doctor suitable office rooms, on the ground floor, away from the rest of the house.

Dr. Ridgely was active in political life. In 1765, before he moved into the house on The Green, he had been elected to the General Assembly and continued to serve in most sessions to the end of his life. In 1767, he urged the passage of a bill "to prohibit the importation of slaves into this government." From 1769 to 1779 he was the Treasurer of Kent County. Just before the Revolution he was Chairman of the Kent County Committee of Correspondence. And he was a member of the Constitutional Convention that framed the Delaware Constitution of 1776.

In 1772, his wife, Mary Wynkoop, died, leaving him to cope with the rearing of five young children. Of this perplexity he was relieved in 1774, when he married Ann Moore, the daughter of Judge William Moore and the Lady Williamina, of Moore Hall in the Welsh Barony of Pennsylvania. Ann was the younger sister-in-law of his old preceptor, Dr. Phineas Bond.

This marriage greatly increased an already wide family connection and also kept the family at Dover in closer touch with Philadelphia. The house on The Green became more and more a cherished destination for the many Ridgely relatives and their friends. The hospitality there dispensed extended to the numerous men in public life with whom Dr. Ridgely came into almost daily contact.

Dr. Ridgely died in November, 1785. He had not spared himself in his practice. It involved riding on indifferent roads in all weathers and at all hours and, in addition, he had given much of his energy to the service of his Country and State. His arduous life ended when he was only forty-seven.

After the Doctor's death, Mrs. Ridgely moved to Eden Hill, which had been left to her for life. She had always loved the country and was fully capable of managing the plantation. It pleased her to be able to direct farm operations on the spot.

From 1767, when Dr. Ridgely had moved into the house on The Green, Eden Hill had been in the care of a tenant-farmer. The immediate family contacts with the place had been in the frequent visits they made from town, Eden Hill was only about a mile from The Green. When Mrs. Ridgely moved to Eden Hill, the house on The Green was rented. It was not again occupied by any of the family until Dr. Abraham Ridgely rented it from 1794 to 1799.

The next member of the family to live there was Henry Moore Ridgely, the son of Dr. Charles Ridgely and Ann Moore. In 1803, as a rising young lawyer of twenty-four, he married Sarah Banning and brought his bride to live in the house where he was born.



Ridgely House, Dover. A view in the Library, the original "great room" of the house, with fireplace and winding stair beside it.



Ridgely House, Dover. Parlour, the "added" room adjoining the Library.

When only twenty-eight, he was elected President of the newly-founded Farmers' Bank of the State of Delaware and continued to hold that office until his death, forty years later. His abilities as a lawyer were highly esteemed and he stood at the top of the legal profession.

His services in public life were many. He was repeatedly elected to the State Legislature. As a leading Federalist, he was elected to the United States Congress in 1811 and 1813, but declined nomination in 1815. He was thrice Secretary of State in Delaware. In this capacity he set the files of that office in order and arranged the scattered records of the State. He asked to be made a Levy Court Commissioner in order to put the County papers in shape. This same service he also performed in his trusteeship for the County Almshouse.

In 1827 Henry Moore Ridgely was elected to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of Senator Nicholas Van Dyke, who had died in March, 1826.

In 1830, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely died and Eden Hill went to the heir, Henry Moore Ridgely's thirteen-year-old son Henry. After that, Henry Moore Ridgely gave much of his time and attention to farming.

In 1841 the house on The Green was the scene of an unusual incident. It cannot be better told than in Mrs. Henry Ridgely's words:

> "During this winter a speaker came to Dover, Lucretia Mott, who arrived from the north via Smyrna with a small party of Quakers. She had spoken there on Abolition. The hearers were infuriated and the men of her party were tarred and feathered. This news reached Dover Green before the lady herself arrived; Senator Ridgely heard of the outrage and decided that Dover should not be disgraced by similar behavior. When the Abolitionists reached Dover, he met them and with his sons escorted them to his house on The Green. Ann Ridgely was the hostess. Lucretia Mott was to speak from the steps of the Court House directly opposite the Ridgely house. When it was time for the speech, Mr. Ridgely and several other gentlemen escorted the party to the Court House steps. It is said they carried guns. When the meeting was over they retraced their way through a mob collected on The Green. They entered the house with its low doorstep and went into the parlor, where a window gave onto the street without.
>
> As the crowd had gathered around the window and there were murmurs from outside, one of the guests suggested that the shutters should be closed. Henry Ridgely forbade this. He said that no one was afraid. A fire burned brightly on the hearth in the little parlor and Lucretia Mott was asked to sit near it while the family, Ann and two of her suitors included, gathered near to listen to the fascinating talker's anecdotes. Miss Mott was an animated speaker. At one point in her tale she arose from her chair to make an emphatic gesture and stepped forward, without realizing she had done so. Then, intending to resume her chair, to her surprise and to the dismay of her hearers she sat instead upon the floor.
>
> Charles duPont ran and tenderly picked her up. Another young man in the party burst into a rude laugh and hid his face in his handkerchief. Both these men had asked Ann's hand in marriage, but up to this moment she had been unable to make up her mind. After the episode she knew that Charles duPont was her choice, and soon thereafter they became engaged."*

The house on The Green eventually descended to Henry Ridgely, the grandson of Henry Moore Ridgely.

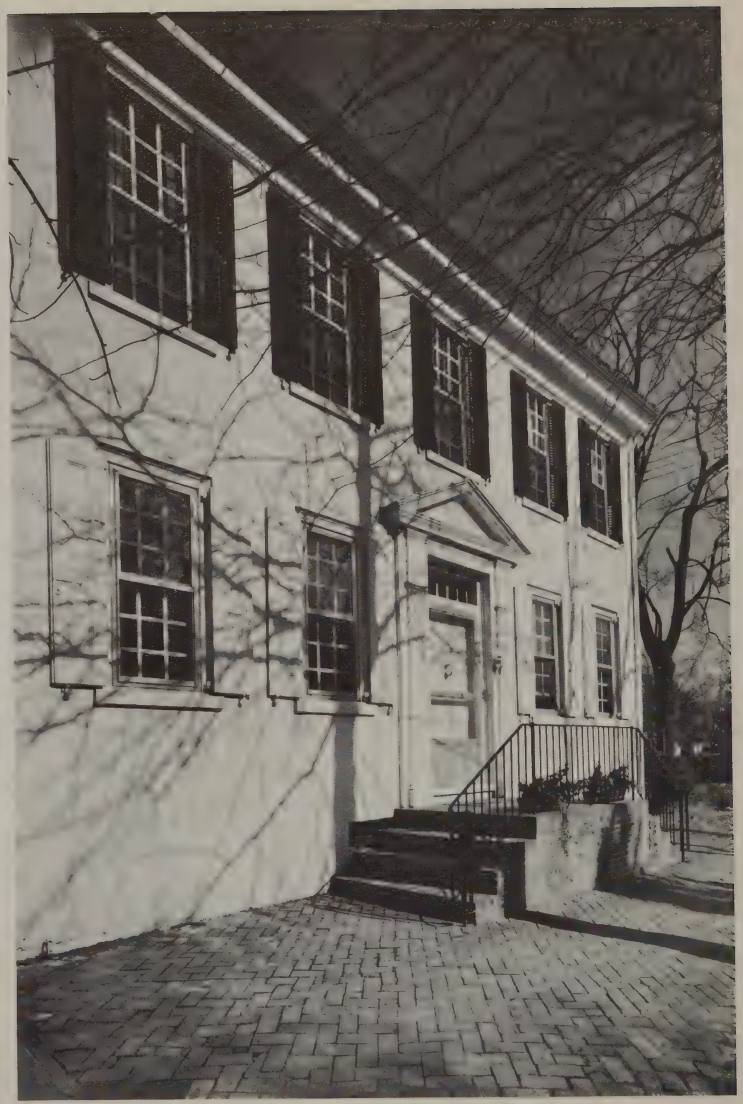
*_The Ridgelys of Delaware & Their Circle. What Them Befell in Colonial & Federal Times: Letters 1751-1890_, by Mabel Lloyd Ridgely, beginning with the birth of Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely in 1694, gives not only an intimate picture of family life at the House on The Green and at Eden Hill, and their occupants' relations with the public life of Delaware, but also much valuable information about other houses and the general history of the State. Its many engaging sidelights reveal the cultural life of Delaware with Province and State.



Loockerman House. Parlour with handsome and elaborate woodwork, a later embellishment.



Loockerman House. Hall containing winding-stair with three straight runs. Woodwork is noteworthy.



Loockerman House, South State Street, Dover, *circa* 1742.

LOOCKERMAN HOUSE

East side of South State Street, Dover

The Loockerman house, on the east side of State Street, in Dover, was built by or for Vincent Loockerman in 1742, when he was twenty years old. His father, Nicholas Loockerman (a descendant of the Gouvert Loockerman who had played an active part in the early public life of New Amsterdam) had already built a substantial brick plantation house on land now occupied by the Delaware State College for Colored Students. The plantation house where Nicholas Loockerman lived is now converted into a girls' dormitory and is called Loockerman Hall.

The Loockerman house in Dover has never passed out of the family and has descended to the present owners by inheritance. It is a two-storey-and-attic, five-bay structure of brick, now stuccoed. The door, and the small-paned transom above it are original; the doorway, with pilasters and pediment, is a later addition.

The original part of the house is two rooms deep and the pre-Georgian plan is an adaptation of the late-Mediaeval plan already discussed in connection with the Ridgely house on The Green, and also in connection with White Meadow Farm in Sussex.

In other words, the square hall into which the house-door opens has at one side a winding stair of three short, straight flights, with rectangular landings. Although there is no fireplace, the two "added" rooms open from the hall. The doorway of one is to the right of the house-door on entering; the arched doorway to the other is directly opposite. Both these rooms have fireplaces. The remaining ground-floor room opens into the two rooms just mentioned. To the southeast, a large frame wing of later date has greatly increased the size of the original house.

To the east or rear of the house is an old box garden of noteworthy beauty. Like a good many of the gardens of Dover, it is invisible from the street. It is so much a part of the picture that it is impossible to dissociate it from the actual fabric of the house.

The woodwork and panelling throughout the house are Georgian and representative of the best craftsmanship of the period. In the large room east of the hall, two exceptionally fine china cupboards flank the fireplace. In this room, the elaborate and handsome woodwork of a more sophisticated and later Georgian pattern has replaced the earlier woodwork. In the hall, the woodwork is coeval with the building of the house. The room immediately above the large room has panelling of the earlier date, and the fireplace is faced with blue and white Dutch tiles.

With its Georgian woodwork and its pre-Georgian plan, the Loockerman house, like not a few others in Kent and Sussex, and some in New Castle County also, indicates a prevalent conservatism, slow to yield to the Georgian fundamental regularity of plan, embodying open stairs of straight flights, in a hall.

Vincent Loockerman played his part in the public life of his day. In 1776 there were many Loyalists in Kent and Sussex and there was much public opposition to the clamour for independence. The resolution of Congress on May 15, 1776, brought matters to a head. The ardent Whigs instructed their five representatives in the Delaware General Assembly to demand the Assembly's compliance with the resolution of Congress; in case of refusal, they were to withdraw and thus dissolve the House. The five representatives were Caesar Rodney, William Killen, John Haslet, Thomas Rodney and Vincent Loockerman.

In 1777 Vincent Loockerman lent £750 to buy clothing for the Delaware Regiment. In 1784 he was a State Senator from Kent County. For some years during the Revolutionary War there was great hostility towards the Methodists, who were looked upon as Tories. One violent outburst against them occurred in Dover, in 1778, when the Reverend Freeborn Garrettson attempted to preach from the steps it would seem, of the Banning house that afterward became the Academy. A chronicler of the event wrote:

> "He began his labours in Dover amid a storm of opposition. Hardly had he dismounted from his horse when the mob gathered crying 'He's a Tory, hang him, hang him,' . . . while others shouted in his defence. Hundreds of clamorous voices resounded around him . . . 'I was in a fair way to be torn in pieces,' says Garrettson."



Woodburn, King's Highway, Dover. North front view.



Woodburn, parlour with exceptionally fine panelling.

Some cooler heads prevailed and quieted the mob, and Garrettson delivered his sermon with great effect. In fact, he succeeded in converting some of the ringleaders.

The outcome of it all was that a Methodist church was eventually established in Dover, its first building erected in 1782. Richard Bassett, afterwards Governor of the State, paid half the cost of construction.

Another generous helper, who gave the lot of ground at the northwest corner of North and Queen Streets, was Vincent Loockerman. He was ready to help the Methodists, but he belonged to the congregation of Christ Church. He is buried in Christ Church burying ground and the inscription on his gravestone says "he was in communion with the Church of England and to his death continued a member of that society."

WOODBURN

The King's Highway, Dover

A metal plaque attached to the southwest corner of Woodburn's walls records the fact that the house stands on part of a 3000 acre tract that William Penn granted to John Hillyard in 1683; also, that Charles Hillyard, great-grandson of the grantee, built the house in 1790 and lived there with his wife, Mary, the daughter of William Killen, the first Chancellor of Delaware.

The tablet likewise states that the house is said to have been the scene of one of the notorious Patty Cannon's last slave-stealing raids. George A. Townsend's *Entailed Hat* gives the whole story in great detail and vividly. Whether the raid actually took place, or whether it was all a figment of Townsend's fertile imagination is not certain. If there was indeed such a raid, it is by no means certain that Woodburn was the house at which it occurred.

Besides the raid story there were current for many years accounts of ghostly visitants who appeared at one time or another to the discomfiture of guests in the house, but never did anything malevolent.

Before he built Woodburn, Charles Hillyard had bought from the Chews the house Chief-Justice Samuel Chew had built on the outskirts of Dover about 1739. This house, it is said, Charles Hillyard presented to the builder of Woodburn as a reward for his work. However that may be, the builder of Woodburn created for Charles Hillyard one of the finest Middle-Georgian houses in Delaware.

Both the exterior and the interior of this three-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house convey an unusual sense of amplitude and stability. The proportions are particularly generous and the absence of dormers contributes an air of staunch solidity to the entire mass of the structure.

The brickwork of the north and south fronts is laid in Flemish-bond; the walls of the ends are in Liverpool-bond, a common eighteenth-century manner of combination. The belt course is five bricks in width without any central recess. This detail adds to the robust quality of the walls. The water-table is topped by two courses of moulded bricks instead of the more usual single course.

The lintols above the windows are of cut stone. The twenty-four-pane windows themselves, and their spacing, indicate the spaciousness of the interiors they light.

The verandah with fluted columns, extending across the whole south front, is an addition of a much later date than the house itself.

The plan of Woodburn is very simple, a wide hall at the west end flanking a large parlour (facing north) and an equally large dining-room (facing south). This plan is repeated on the upper floor. One cannot help wondering whether the lower two-storey kitchen wing, attached to the east end of the main block, may not have been an earlier building (as in so many comparable cases), and whether, had it not been there, the main block of the house might not have been made five bays wide. The kitchen wing has undergone too many changes to form any opinion regarding date.

The exceptional breadth of the hall is one of the most striking features of the whole composition. It is really a long room extending from the north door to the south door, with the stair in three runs winding upward at the south end. To all intents and purposes it is a big living-room. It is worth noting that the very wide north door is made in two halves, upper and lower, a rather rare feature in old Delaware houses.

The woodwork throughout the house has always quite deservedly been a source of pride to the owners of Woodburn. It is robust in design, abundant in quantity, and of the highest quality.

Despite the date of Woodburn, the design is distinctly Middle-Georgian with a strong bias towards dog-ears. The beautifully-executed cornices are of wood. Fine panelling is not confined to chimney-breasts or to whole room-ends; it is seen in the window seats and in the dados around all the walls in parlour, dining-room and hall. In the parlour, the importance of the room is signalised by pediments over all door openings, the only approach to a later vogue.

Woodburn is an eloquent instance of the essential vitality inherent in the Georgian manner and, at the same time, of the field it opens for an original expression of individuality.

BERRY'S RANGE (Also called MAPLEWOOD)

East side of U.S. Route 113 and opposite Latex plant, Dover

In the late seventeenth century a 1000-acre tract along the east side of St. Jones Creek, opposite Dover, was patented to William Berry and was called Berry's Range. On June 4, 1741, 274 acres of this tract came into the possession of Samuel Chew, then of Dover.

Samuel Chew, "Dr. Samuel Chew of Maidstone," as he was often called, came from Maidstone, the Chew family place in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Mrs. Chew had died in 1734 and Samuel Chew, at Maidstone, had devoted much of his attention to the education of his son Benjamin, then a lad of twelve.

Although he seems to have had a previous connection with Kent County, Dr. Chew removed to Dover in the autumn of 1738 or the spring of 1739, and early in 1739 became Prothonotary of Kent County. He lived in a fine house at the southeast corner of The Green where the South Wing of the Old State House now stands.

Dr. Chew had frequently been consulted in legal matters pertaining to the chronic boundary disputes between Maryland, on the one hand, and Delaware and Pennsylvania on the other, and was constantly in communication with the leading men in Pennsylvania's Provincial Government. Hence it was the wish of the Penns that he should be a member of the Provincial Councils in both Delaware and Pennsylvania. Before the pleasure of the Penns was known in this matter, Governour Thomas had already appointed Dr. Chew Chief-Justice for the Lower Counties.

In this capacity, in 1741, he delivered a charge to the Delaware Grand Jury that had far-reaching effects upon the conduct of the Government, and also raised a terrible hubbub amongst the Quakers. They had already severely censured the Chief-Justice because his daughter Elizabeth had married Colonel Edward Tilghman "out of meeting." This censure, and the Chief-Justice's charge to the Grand Jury, caused the complete estrangement of the Chews from the Quaker fold.

The Quakers of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland had been protesting vigorously against any aid to the Mother Country in her war with Spain and the hostilities that would, in all likelihood, ensue with France. They were set against taking any measure for self-defense, even in event of invasion.

In view of the exposed position of New Castle and, indeed, of the whole Delaware shore, Chief-Justice Chew pointed out to the Grand Jury the necessity of defensive measures, first reasoning that "the laws of God and nature could not be in conflict, and discriminating between vengeance and defence." Continuing, he said:

> "Perhaps some may think it strange, that I, who have been educated amongst, and have always professed myself to be of the Society of the people called *Quakers*, should in this public manner declare myself so opposite to their sentiments in point of defense. I would have such to believe, that the love of my country, the love of mankind in general, but above all, the love of truth, is of greater concernment to me, than what is called uniformity, or the being so attached to any particular party in religion, as to espouse, or seem to espouse, any of the errors of it. That of the unlawfulness of self-defense to Christians, is, to me, a most capital error; not only dangerous to

society in general, as I have already said, and inconsistent with the very nature of civil communities; but more particularly, of extreme danger to ourselves at this critical conjuncture."

To emphasise the urgent need of action, the Chief-Justice pointed out,

"The province of Pennsylvania, and these counties, are in the very centre of his Majesty's colonies in America. The French are settled within a few days march of our frontiers to the northwest of us. The ocean bounds us to the eastward, and will admit the landing of any number of men, almost everywhere. In case, seeing we are so much exposed on each side, and of all his Majesty's colonies in America, are the only ones that are without troops, without arms, and without ammunition; And all this owing to an opposition in our several Assemblies, made by people whose religious persuasion leads them to condemn the use of arms in general."

In spite of the pacifist opposition, the Delaware Assembly enacted a Militia Law. The Pennsylvania Assembly remained mulishly obdurate and would not. To pillory the political manoeuvres of the Pennsylvania obstructionists, the Chief-Justice went on,

"Our Governour . . . warmly recommended this thing [military provision] to the Assemblies of both governments [Delaware and Pennsylvania]; and has been expressly answered by one of them [Pennsylvania], 'that all defense was, according to the religious persuasion of the majority of their House unlawful.' . . . The being really principled against the lawfulness of self-defense" continued the Chief-Justice, "is, in itself, innocent, as proceeding from an ill-formed judgement, and only shows the unfitness of those who are so principled to be employed in legislation. *But when such persons, by plotting and management, procure themselves to be chosen to the Legislature, at a critical time, merely to keep out and tie up the hands of others, whose religious principles leave them at liberty to provide for the defense of their country, in case of a foreign invasion; it amounts to a negative persecution, and becomes highly blamable.*"

The result of this outspoken arraignment of Quaker political methods in Pennsylvania was that the Duck Creek Monthly Meeting first demanded that Chief-Justice Chew retract his charges. When he refused to do so, they expelled him. In his next charge to the Grand Jury, the Chief-Justice delivered a counterblast to the Monthly Meeting's fulminations that made the Quakers squirm even more than his previous pronouncements. However unpalatable the dose, he told them a few plain truths they richly deserved to hear.

About 1736 young Benjamin had been put to read law in the office of the great Andrew Hamilton in Philadelphia, and there continued until Hamilton's death in August, 1741. He then came home to keep on with his law studies in his father's office, and also to assist the Chief-Justice in whatever ways he could, so that during this altercation between his father and the Quakers he was in Dover.

It was about this time that the house at Berry's Range was a-building, a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic Georgian main block of brick, with brick extension at the rear. There was a handsome fanlight above the house-door and the interior woodwork was in good Mid-Georgian manner. A clumsy two-storey portico and pediment, added by Greek-Revival period "improvers," and other "modernisations" have destroyed the original aspect. Hemmed in, as it now is by an up-to-date building "development," it has only its fine trees and a semi-circle of old box as reminders of its erstwhile appearance.

In 1743 Benjamin Chew went to London and was admitted a student in the Middle Temple, October 27th, just about a month before he turned twenty-one. Of nearly the same age, William Blackstone (of Commentaries fame) was his fellow-Middle Templar.

Chief-Justice Chew died in 1743 and was buried at Berry's Range in a walled plot on the farm. According to Dover tradition, death did not keep the Chief-Justice quiet. His ghost haunted The Green and people were so terrified that they took to staying home of nights, "to the dismay of the tavernkeepers and shopkeepers." Finally, to lay the uneasy spirit, a funeral procession of townspeople moved across The Green on a sunny day to a grave dug beneath an old poplar tree. While a bell tolled, a clergyman read the burial service, "consigning the spirit of Samuel Chew to everlasting peace and rest."

At his father's death Benjamin Chew left London and got back to Dover in 1744. He was admitted to practise in the lower courts of Delaware and Pennsylvania and, in 1746, was admitted to practise at the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

In June, 1747, he married his cousin, Mary Galloway, of West River, Maryland, and continued to make his home at Dover. In 1750 he became a member of the Lower Counties Assembly and, in 1751, was assigned the important task of collecting and editing the Delaware laws. He was one of the Commissioners to settle the long-standing boundary dispute with Maryland.

Concern with the Boundary Commission, and appointment as one of the Secretaries to the Albany Congress in 1754 took him more and more to Philadelphia and made it advisable for him to have a home there as well as in Dover; he accordingly took a house on Front Street near Dock Creek, established himself there, and for many years was a citizen of both commonwealths, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

He succeeded Tench Francis as Attorney-General in 1755, a post he held until 1769. In 1755, too, he became a member of the Provincial Council, along with Alderman John Mifflin and Dr. Thomas Cadwalader. As a Councillor, Governour John Penn leaned heavily upon him for advice and Mr. Chew's weight in the Council from this time onward was a potent force in the Provincial Government.

In 1756 Benjamin Chew was Speaker of the Assembly of the Lower Counties. In 1770 he was Prothonotary of Kent County. Subsequently, as his presence was increasingly required in Philadelphia, he found it expedient to make his permanent residence in Pennsylvania. In 1774 he became Chief-Justice there.

When he finally gave up residence at Dover, Benjamin Chew sold Berry's Range to Charles Hilliard, reserving from the sale only the Chew burial plot where his father was buried. This walled plot has now disappeared. Charles Hilliard afterwards built Woodburn. It is said that after Woodburn, with its fine interior woodwork, was finished, Charles Hilliard paid the architect-builder for his services by the gift of the house at Berry's Range.

How, when and why the Chew house, at the southeast corner of The Green in Dover, was demolished is told in the story of the State House.

YORK SEAT

State Route 9, north of junction with State Route 8

York Seat, about four miles from Dover, is on the west side of the road (State Route 9) from the village of Little Creek to Leipsic, just north of the junction with the road to Dover (State Route 8).

The land at York Seat is part of the York tract warranted to William Stevens in April, 1676, under the Duke of York's Government. A large portion of this land at a later date came into the possession of the Emerson family.

The gambrel-roofed frame part of the house at York Seat is much older than the larger stone part and dates from about the middle of the eighteenth century. It is inseparably associated with the memory of an exceptional woman of the early nineteenth century, Ann Bell, the daughter of John Bell.

At age seventeen she married Jonathan Emerson, heir to about 800 acres of the original York tract on Little Creek Neck, deemed one of the best tracts of land in Kent County. His early death left Ann with five children, a son and four daughters, and the York Seat farm as her dower. In 1814 she was married again. Her second spouse, Manlove Hayes, a twice-married widower with children.

The eldest son of this second marriage, Manlove Hayes has given us in his *Reminiscences* an insight into the family life at York Seat. His mother, to begin with, was highly educated, well-read, a good linguist, a deft needlewoman, and thoroughly versed in all the arts of housekeeping. She had capably managed the dower farm, trained her servants, looked to the rearing of her children, and taken a conspicuous part in all the women's activities of the Society of Friends. Her descendants still speak with pride of her skillful needlework. Under the impulse of the popular silk-culture venture, she raised silkworms and made silk.

At age thirty-seven, she took on the responsibilities of an additional family. How she managed to stow a husband and four sets of children in the little old gambrel-roofed house is a mystery; but she did. Some of the children, of course, were away at school, but there were times when they were all there more or less. At the times of Quaker gatherings, Manlove Hayes says,

> "It was sometimes difficult to accommodate all our visitors, and at night, the children were put to sleep on improvised couches in any spare room or corner. These inconveniences, however, were all taken in good humour, and the evenings were generally enjoyed by the young people, who made it an occasion of innocent amusement."

Relief to this congestion came at last in 1825, when a substantial addition was built, "of stone, the first farmhouse of that material in the county, the enlarged accommodation being greatly needed."

In the many years of occupancy by tenant-farmers, all manner of things have happened to the interior of the old gambrel-roofed part of the house so that its first plan is badly obscured. What parts of the original woodwork remain, show good mid-eighteenth-century characteristics.

As to the addition, the most striking feature of it is that it is built of stone. Few old structures in Kent County are built of stone. There is no place in the county where stone could be quarried and, where stone buildings occur, they are near navigable water where shipping could bring the stone in ballast.

By 1825, when the three-bay, two-storey-and-attic enlargement took place, "simplified Regency" usage was well established in public consciousness. Hence the stepped brick cornice crowning the stone walls. The enlargement extends backward the full depth of the older building. The pedimented portico is co-eval with the addition.

The interior woodwork in the enlargement savours of the late eighteenth-century manner. This was to be expected from the conservatism of local house-carpenters and builders who, as a rule, were slow to adopt new fashions.

When he was about nineteen, a chance meeting in Philadelphia with the architect, William Strickland, seems to have determined Manlove Hayes to become a civil engineer. Strickland had been chief engineer of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. From 1836 young Hayes worked as an engineer in Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas, returning to Kent County in 1840.

Having decided against the law as a career, he was then just twenty-three, he turned his energies to farming, assisting his father at York Seat and likewise entering wholeheartedly into measures for improving Delaware agriculture. In this he was greatly encouraged by his half-brother, Dr. Gouverneur Emerson, who was then farming his 600 acres adjoining York Seat.

Thenceforward Hayes's tireless activities embraced farming, water transportation, politics and railroading, in all of which he made highly creditable records. At his death, in 1910, he had been for 45 years a Director, and for 40 years Secretary and Treasurer of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad.

The record of his life of public service in many fields is part of Delaware State history and needs no detailed rehearsal here. It is worth remembering that York Seat was the birthplace, and later the property of one who did valiant and effectual service in the rejuvenation of Delaware agriculture.

"EIGHT-SQUARE" SCHOOLHOUSE

Cowgill's Corner, about four and one-half miles south of Leipsic, State Route 9 to Little Creek

The little "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse at Cowgill's Corner, on the road from Leipsic to Little Creek, was built in 1836 as a district public school. If not the first one opened in Delaware under the free-school law, it was certainly one of the earliest.

It is built of undressed stone, stuccoed and whitewashed. This one-storey structure is a perfect octagon in plan with eight sides of equal dimensions. There is a window in the centre of each side, except the side reserved for the entrance.

The steep-pitched roof is eight-sided, and just beneath the eaves there is a neatly-adjusted stepped brick cornice, the one attempt at architectural amenity in this exceeding simple structure.

The arrangement inside this one big octagonal schoolroom was unusual. Both boys and girls came here to learn and recite their lessons. Whether the Quaker custom of separating men and women in their places in meeting-houses suggested separating the boys and girls in the schoolroom it would be hard to say. In the seating arrangement of the "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse, the desks were placed in two circles. The outer circle of desks, facing the wall, was for the boys; the inner circle, facing the centre of the room, was for the girls.

Through the persistent efforts of Judge Willard Hall and of Charles Marim, a member of the State General Assembly who lived at Cherbourg, southeast of Dover, the Legislature passed the Free School Law in 1829.

Manlove Hayes was then living at York Seat, not far away on the Leipsic-Little Creek road, and was most eager to get a school built nearby, no doubt partly because of his numerous children and step-children.

At any rate, the schoolhouse was built not far from York Seat, and it is possible that he himself designed the eight-sided building. Like the 1825 addition to York Seat, the "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse is built of stone and has a stepped brick cornice. As Manlove Hayes was a capable engineer, the inference is natural.

When the schoolhouse was finished, a large group of people gathered to hear Charles Marim, Manlove Hayes's stepson-in-law, give the dedication address. The building continued to be used as a school until the early 1900's. Since then it has been used occasionally as a community meeting place. The "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse, apart from the appeal of its architectural naïveté, is a significant evidence of the cultural life of the period when it was built.

OLD STONE TAVERN, LITTLE CREEK

On east side of the main street, village of Little Creek

This two-storey-and-attic, five-bay house with central hall is generally known as the Old Stone Tavern or, sometimes, as the Bell House. It is one of the few stone structures in Kent County. Standing, as it does, in the village of Little Creek, it is quite evident that the material for its walls came to Little Creek landing as ballast on grain shallops, when they returned with cargoes of manufactured goods that were lighter and much less bulky than the shipments of grain and flour they had previously carried away to Wilmington or to Philadelphia.

We know the house was standing before 1768, for in that year the then owner and occupant mentions it in a deed to her son and refers to it as the "tavern house." As a matter of fact, from all physical indications the house was apparently built about the middle of the eighteenth century, possibly a little bit earlier. It was natural the house should have done duty as a tavern for it was large enough and it stood on the road that runs northward from Little Creek Landing to the "Fast Landing" (now Leipsic), and inland to the Dover "Landing" on St. Jones River.

The house, unfortunately, has suffered the addition of a Victorian verandah enframing the doorway, and likewise the replacement of the original glazing in most of the windows by big-paned Victorian sashes; one of the surest and easiest ways of wrecking the aesthetic values of any Georgian structure.

The one remnant of architectural amenity left, after the ruthless "modernisation" manhandling of the exterior, is the carefully devised stepped-brick cornice, of the same sort as noted at York Seat and at the "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse at Cowgill's Corner, farther up the road to Leipsic. It is not unlikely that the brick cornice atop the walls of the Old Stone Tavern may have been the local precedent for the same thing at both York Seat and the octagonal schoolhouse.

The interior of the Old Stone Tavern has fared rather better than the exterior. Although in several rooms mantels of a pattern much favoured about 1800 have replaced the earlier chimney-breast woodwork

of about 1750, enough of the original woodwork and panelling remains to prove that the builders of the house had a due regard for the architectural decencies of the period.

Robert and Mary Bell, from the North of Ireland, after being for a time in Elizabeth, New Jersey, came with their seven children to Little Creek. They, it seems, started the tavern-business in the stone house. One of the pretty daughters became the wife of James Sykes, one of the Committee of Public Safety and a member of the Continental Congress. Another daughter was married to the Reverend Samuel Magaw, Rector of Christ Church in Dover.

Henry Bell, that one of the "seven Children" to whom his mother had deeded the stone house, was still living there with his wife in 1793. The last Bell to own it was John Bell, who died insolvent in 1840. The Hayes family, old friends and connections of the Bells, then bought the Old Stone House.

DICKINSON MANSION

About five miles south of Dover, U.S. Route 113, east one-third mile on Kitt's Hummock Road

The Dickinson Mansion, built by Judge Samuel Dickinson and completed by the year 1740, is a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic Middle-Georgian brick building with wide central hall, and two lower wings to the westward, stepping down from the main house on the same axis. The first addition was the dining-room wing added in 1752. There was a bedroom above it, reached by a cupboard stair. The little western-most wing, with whitewashed walls and brick-columned arcade, was added in 1754 for a kitchen, with quarters above for some of the household slaves.

The mansion faces directly south and, though well lighted everywhere, has very few windows on the north side. This arrangement was planned to conserve warmth in winter. The brickwork, laid in Flemish-bond with black glazed headers, is a praise-worthy example of masonry, of a period when brick masonry in the Colonies was at its best.

The house was placed, and the whole plantation planned, to connect readily with a lane through the fields to a landing on the nearby St. Jones River. This assured easy access by water to New Castle, Wilmington and Philadelphia.

Samuel Dickinson, who came from Talbot County, Maryland, bought large tracts of land in what is now East Dover Hundred. On one tract of 1300 acres he built one of the first plantation houses in Delaware, with its nearby slave-quarters, barns, sheds and other outlying dependencies. The master's dwelling house on this plantation was finished in time for the family to move into it in January, 1740. Tradition has it that Judge Dickinson sometimes used the great parlour for his Court Room, as he had been appointed a Judge of the Kent County Court of Common Pleas.

The house, as Judge Dickinson built it, was three full storeys in height on a high basement, and had a hipped roof. It was a more imposing structure than the main body of the house as it stands to-day. Incidentally, not a few houses of three full storeys, with hipped roof, on a high basement at that period, both in the South and in England, had the kitchen in the high basement. It should be noted that the windows in the lower floor are unusually tall, four panes wide and eight panes high. This was quite consistent with the full three-storeys-and-hipped-roof pattern of the house.

In 1804 a disastrous fire occurred. John Dickinson was then an old man and was living in the house he had built in Wilmington. When he repaired the damage, he put the house in its present form. The fine interior woodwork and panelling, placed when the house was first built, were badly damaged and partially destroyed at the time of the fire. The replacement at the time was of far simpler description than the original work. Since the restoration of the house, woodwork of the erstwhile high quality has been installed.

The cellar, as originally planned, almost at ground level and well lighted, contained a large storage room under the great parlour, a wine cellar under the front door, and scullery and kitchen beneath the two rooms to the left of the front door on entering. These two rooms, across the central hall from the great parlour, have angle fireplaces, their flues opening into the same chimney.



John Dickinson Mansion, 1740. South front view. There were originally three full storeys. The wings at the left are later additions.



John Dickinson Mansion. The parlour was the handsomest room of the house and tradition claims that Judge Samuel Dickinson sometimes held court here.

John Dickinson, the son of Samuel and Mary (Cadwalader) Dickinson, was born November 2, 1732, at Crosiadoré, a family estate in Talbot County, Maryland. When the Dickinsons moved into their new Kent County plantation house, John was eight years old. There John and his younger brother, Philemon, spent their boyhood. Their tutor, who lived in the house, was a young Irishman, William Killen. In years to come, he would be the first Chancellor of the Delaware State, from 1792 to 1801.

In 1750, when he was eighteen years old, John Dickinson went to Philadelphia to read law with John Moland, one of the foremost and ablest lawyers of that day. After a period of diligent application under the eye of John Moland, he went to London to pursue his study of the law at the Middle Temple. There he stayed until 1757, when he returned to America and started in active practice of his profession.

John's letters from London to his Mother and Father contain many an allusion to the home plantation and his love for it. He mentions with affection the "peaceful Plains, the dear House, and all the sweet domestick Pleasures I have enjoy'd; Chearful Days, quiet Nights, delightful Converse . . ."

Writing to his Mother, October 29th, 1754, he says:

> "I shoud be glad to know how the Building goes on; [evidently the second kitchen addition] or what Hedging is making. My Honoured Father usd to talk of it, & I am very fond of it, since I have been in England: If all the Grounds about our House were enclosed with Hedges, it is not possible to conceive how beautiful they woud look."

On January 22nd, 1755, he writes:

> "I shoud be extremely glad to know how this Winter time agrees with you . . . & hope that the new Kitchen was finished before the cold Weather set in . . ."

On his return to America, John Dickinson soon developed a keen interest in politics and put forth his arguments in a number of pamphlets. They offered the best means of influencing public opinion at that period. His pamphlets or public letters from the first commanded wide attention and had a pronounced effect in forming popular sentiment.

In 1760 Dickinson was elected to the Delaware General Assembly. In 1762 and 1764 he was one of the delegates representing Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly. The next year he was a Pennsylvania delegate to the Colonial Congress and, on October 19th, drew up for that body's adoption *The Declaration of Rights Adopted by the Stamp Act Congress.* Thence onward he wrote nearly all the important documents of the Continental Congress preceding the Declaration of Independence. Hence his soubriquet "Penman of the Revolution."

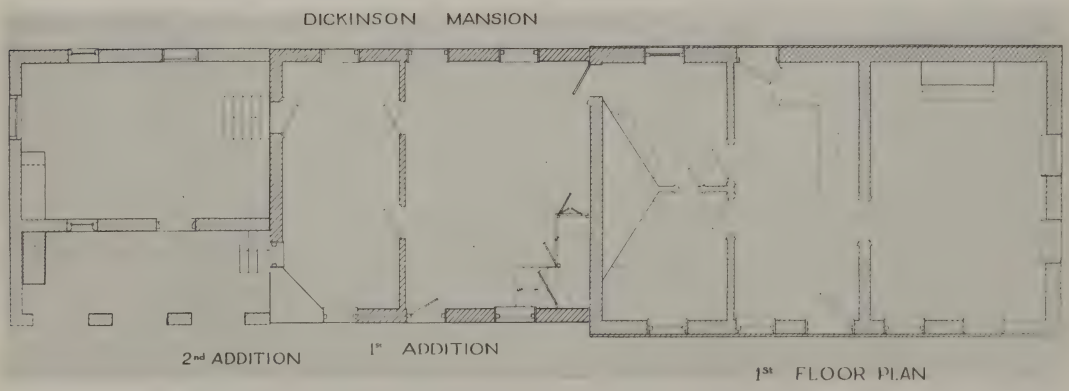
His *Letters Of A Farmer In Pennsylvania,* written in 1768, and his *Song For American Freedom,* in the same year also, contributed in great measure towards forming and firmly fixing public opinion in the Colonies. "When the petitions of Congress to the Crown, which Dickinson had draughted, failed to effect a reconciliation, the revolutionary faction introduced Lee's resolution for a complete separation."

John Dickinson opposed the Declaration of Independence because he felt strongly that the differences with the Mother Country could be composed without resort to arms. Furthermore, he believed "there should be a general confederation of all American Colonies under a constitution, with continental control," before resorting to any armed intervention.

In accordance with his convictions, he "absented himself from Congress and refrained from signing the Declaration of Independence." Nevertheless, the action once taken, loyalty to his country and his fellow-countrymen impelled him to take up arms in the American cause. Within a week after Independence had been proclaimed John Dickinson marched as colonel of a Philadelphia brigade against British troops threatening to invade New York and New Jersey. He also rendered useful military service in Delaware until 1778. In 1778, as a Delaware delegate in the Continental Congress, he draughted the Articles of Confederation.



John Dickinson Mansion. The first addition of 1752 was built to provide a dining room and the summer kitchen wing was added in 1754.



First floor plans of the John Dickinson Mansion for the original 1740 part and the wings of 1752 and 1754.

In August, 1781, at the direction of the Board of Associated Loyalists in New York, a well-armed party of sixteen marauders landed from whaleboats near the mouth of St. Jones River, marched to the Dickinson plantation house and terrorised the Negro servants.

> "For two hours they systematically looted the house. Chests of silver, all the plate except a few teaspoons, Mrs. Dickinson's clothing, Dickinson's too, and a great quantity of linen, 'all your Bottled wine . . . two barrels of Cherry bounce . . . your whole stock of Salted Meat, and your Negro Man Isaac . . .' "

The loot they carried to Kitt's Hummock and made off.

Dickinson, who had been attending Congress in Philadelphia, came down at once to restore order on the plantation. While thus busied, he was chosen President of The Delaware State. This office he resigned in 1782 to become President of the State of Pennsylvania, an office he held until 1785, when he resigned to return to Delaware.

No matter how busy with his political duties in either Delaware or Pennsylvania, to the end of his life the plantation on St. Jones River always remained the true centre of his interest and affection. In 1781, he freed all his slaves and gave them all paid employment on the plantation.

In later years it is difficult to determine at just exactly what times John Dickinson lived on the plantation. His engrossing professional and political duties kept him almost continuously on the go between Delaware and Philadelphia, leaving him little time for an uninterrupted residence anywhere. After his marriage with Mary Norris he spent a good deal of time at Fair Hill; his coach, with the Dickinson arms on the door panels, was as familiar a sight in Philadelphia streets as were the coaches of the Chews, the Walns or the Bickleys. In the intervals, when public responsibilities did not require his presence outside of Delaware, we may be sure he found his plantation a welcome haven of peace. After the fire of 1804 the plantation house was occupied by tenant farmers.

In 1786 Dickinson headed Delaware's delegation to the Annapolis Convention, of which he was elected chairman. As chairman, he wrote the report urging the call of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. At the Constitutional Convention he vigorously maintained the rights of the smaller States and insisted on an equal representation in the Senate for all States.

When the Constitution was afterwards submitted to the States for ratification, John Dickinson was instrumental in securing Delaware's prompt action thereon. Delaware's honour of being the *first* State to ratify the new Constitution may be ascribed in great measure to Dickinson's exertions.

In 1791-92 Dickinson was in the forefront at the State Constitutional Convention where he drew up a strong frame of government that served Delaware for many years afterward.

Throughout his life Dickinson kept up his active interest in political matters and carried on a voluminous correspondence with statesmen and friends. He died February 14, 1808, and was buried in Friends' Meeting Yard, at Fourth and West Streets, Wilmington. His wife, Mary Norris, predeceased him.

The Dickinson Mansion is more than a fine example of lower Delaware eighteenth-century plantation architecture; it is an historic place giving an insight to the way of living of one of the great founders of our Country. Recognising the historic value of the house, and to redeem it from the neglect of past years, the Historic Activities Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware raised the sum of $25,000. This was presented to the State of Delaware on Constitution Day, September 17, 1952, for the purpose of buying the house and a suitable plot of ground. Following architectural and historical research, the Public Archives Commission, with the assistance of an Advisory Committee, carried forward the restoration with State appropriations and private gifts. The garden, destroyed during the years of farmer-tenancy, has been recreated.



Peter Lowber House at Frederica, *circa* 1750, before the town was laid out. The house has excellent brickwork.



Barratt's Chapel, near Frederica, *circa* 1780. Called the "Cradle of Methodism" in America.

LOWBER HOUSE

In the town of Frederica

In 1847, an old gentleman of the Lowber family, in giving family data to one of a younger generation, recorded that Matthew Lowber came from Amsterdam and settled in Maryland in the seventeenth century. He married the daughter of an English family that had settled in Maryland about the same time.

Matthew Lowber's son Peter was the progenitor of the family in Delaware. He came into the Three Lower Counties either under the Duke of York's Government or else very early in the Penn regime. He married into an affluent family and, between his own resources and those of his spouse and her kin, he became possessed of extensive land-holdings in Kent County.

As the old gentleman narrator put it, Peter "accumulated as much property as dub'd him a Very Rich Man in his day and place; or as they then said a Warm Man; and from his disposition to rule, was call'd King; and being Rich and Hospitable, much court and deference was paid him." The said Peter had four sons, Michael, Matthew, Peter and Daniel and three daughters.

The names Peter and Matthew keep recurring with confusing frequency, but as near as we can conjecture, it was either Peter the son, or Peter a grandson of the first Peter, according to Scharf, he died in 1698, who turns up in a survey record of 1730, in Murder Kill Hundred in Kent County.

In 1730, Peter Lowber had land surveyed for him called "Addition to Caben Ridge Situate in Murther Kill Hundred in the County of Kent." In 1752, another survey for 300 acres mentions Peter Lowber's "dwelling plantation called Caben Ridge in the Forest of Murther Creek Hundred."

Putting two and two together, it would appear that the house on Peter Lowber's "dwelling plantation called Caben Ridge in the Forest of Murther Creek Hundred" is the Lowber house in Frederica. The house was evidently built about 1750 or a little earlier. Also, it was built before Frederica was laid out in town lots; the town was not plotted in lots and streets until 1770. That the Lowber house ante-dated any town layout is perfectly patent. It is placed without relation to any street and it faces more or less down the middle of a fairly wide street. When the street reaches the house, it has to make a considerable arc curve to get around the east end of the building before getting back to its straight course.

Peter Lowber's plantation house "in the Forest of Murther Creek Hundred" is a significant document in the story of Delaware's domestic architecture. Its approximately definite date helps to fix the period at which Georgian precedent had won popular approbation, and when those intending to build themselves substantial and commodious dwellings looked to the ordered symmetry of the Georgian manner for guidance.

In spite of the inconsiderate treatment given it by Victorian and post-Victorian "improvers," the still-visible characteristics of the Lowber house at Frederica are worthy of note. Segmental arches above windows, and the dimensions of the windows themselves (best studied on the upper floor), indicate Early-Georgian usage.

The one-room depth of the house is a Delaware characteristic, already noted elsewhere. On the unpainted east end, one can still see the vigorous Flemish-bond brickwork with black glazed headers and picture how the whole house looked before it was mutilated. The steep pitch of the roof is an indication of early date.

The interior, now reft of most of its woodwork, originally had its full complement of excellent panelling.

BARRATT'S CHAPEL

Near Frederica

Barratt's Chapel, near Frederica, venerated by all American Methodists, is regarded as the "Cradle of Methodism" because the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was there first administered in America to Methodist communicants by authorised Methodist ministers, and because Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke first met there, November 10, 1784, and arranged the preliminaries for organising the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

The Chapel, almost square (42 feet by 48 feet), is a brick building, plain as a pipestem and without

any architectural pretensions. The interior has been much changed and the old high pulpit has disappeared, but the bench on which Asbury and Coke sat is carefully preserved as a cherished memento.

Philip Barratt, who gave the land for the Chapel and its adjoining burying ground, was one of the first converts to Methodism and was a devoted friend to Francis Asbury. Appointed High Sheriff of Kent County by Governour John Penn in 1775, he was elected Sheriff in 1776 and served in that capacity during the Revolutionary War, during which he rendered most efficient services in aid of the struggling colonies.

The Reverend Freeborn Garretson seems to have given the first strong impulse to Methodism in Delaware. In 1778, Philip Barratt and some others were so affected by his preaching that they formed themselves into a Methodist society, meeting at their own houses. They soon felt the need of more room for their meetings and, in 1780, Barratt and his father-in-law started to build the Chapel.

On August 17, 1780, Philip Barratt deeded the land for the Chapel to eight of his fellow-Methodists as trustees "to the intent and express purpose of building thereon a preaching house or chapel." It was also stipulated that the preacher who should use the pulpit of the said preaching house "should use no other doctrine than is contained in the Rev. John Wesley's notes on the New Testament and Four Volumes of Sermons."

Because of Wesley's utterances in England deprecating the uprising in America, there was a time during the Revolutionary War when the Methodists were hounded as Tories. It is said that in 1778, when Asbury was staying at the home of Judge White (Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Kent County), a band of truculent men appeared at the door and asked the Judge if he wanted them "to ride the preacher out of the State on a rail." "Thank you, gentlemen," said the Judge, "but I think I can attend to him." The Judge himself was badly hectored by the Whigs because he was a Methodist.

It was at this time that Barratt's official position as Sheriff and a member of the State Legislature, and his recognised services to the American cause, enabled him to befriend Asbury and other Methodists and shield them from persecution.

BARRATT HOUSE

On a side road to the east of U.S. Route 113

South of Barratt's Chapel and about a mile north of Frederica, a side road to the east of Route 113 leads to the Barratt house on the banks of the Murderkill.

It is a two-storey-and-attic, three-bay brick structure with central hall and stair. At the east side is a frame kitchen wing. The house faces north. It is one of the early dwellings in that category where the elemental "Resurrection Manor plan" has been set aside in favour of a very unpretentious form of Georgian symmetry. Built about the middle of the eighteenth century, its flavour strongly suggests Early-Georgian vigorous simplicity.

Both front and back, and on the ends, the brickwork is laid in Flemish-bond and is of admirable quality. An unusual feature is the belt course, three bricks in width, with the middle course flush and composed of black headers. The belt course extends around all walls.

At the west end, two small windows on the ground floor (at each side of the chimney), two more on the upper storey, and two very small openings in the attic, are bricked up. There is also a bricked-up doorway to the cellar. All these bricked-up openings have segmental arches. The segmental arches appear over the window and door openings in the other walls.

The small bricked-up windows on the west wall opened into cupboards on each side of the fireplace, possible powder-closets in the upper storey, enclosed by the panelling that continued flush with the chimney-breast panelling from wall to wall.

The plan is the simplest Georgian plan possible, central hall with stair ascending in two runs of reverse direction, with landing half-way up; south door opposite north door; and one room at each side of hall, the house being one room deep. The plan is repeated in the upper storey.

In the parlour, to the right of the house-door, the fireplace is in the middle of the west wall. In the dining-room, to the left of the front door, the fireplace is canted across the northeast corner so that the doorway to the kitchen wing does not disturb the symmetrical balance of the room.

Although the house has suffered many Victorian mutilations, over and above the tawdry verandah tacked onto the north front, there is still intact fine panelling and other good woodwork.

Philip Barratt and his brother Roger, born in Cecil County, Maryland, settled in Kent County at some time prior to 1755. Philip's political career and the part he played in establishing Delaware Methodism are noted in the account of Barratt's Chapel. Besides farming his tract of 600 acres, Philip Barratt engaged in the shipping trade of the Murderkill close to his house. He owned two sloops, the *Friendship* and the *Dolphin*. In these he shipped corn, pork, bark and staves to Philadelphia.

JEHU REED HOUSE

Near Frederica

The Jehu Reed house is of historic import on two separate counts. It was the home of a great agricultural benefactor whose diligent policies in soil enrichment and scientific farming played no small part in fostering the State's prosperity from peach and apple orchards.

In the second place, the house epitomises the species of architectural transformation, might it not more fitly be termed "disaster," that has befallen so many houses, not only in Delaware but elsewhere in the older states.

By 1830 farming had fallen into decay. Abundant crops had been raised on naturally productive land, but nothing had been returned to the soil. The soil was exhausted. In the early 1830's, *The Plow*, a farm magazine, printed the account of a visit to Delaware, wherein the writer was shocked by "the tottering farmhouses, starved cattle, worthless, exhausted land, and dilapidated fences."

Obviously, something had to be done. Men like Jehu Reed, John Middleton Clayton, Judge Causey, Anthony M. Higgins and others supplied a much-needed impetus to scientific farming. By their example as farmers, and by organising agricultural societies, they spread the adoption of intelligent farm and orchard practice throughout the State.

Jehu Reed prospered and grew rich by the sale of peaches and young grafted peach trees. In the silk-production enthusiasm that then swayed popular imagination, he raised silkworms, feeding them on his own mulberry trees. From this venture, too, he made a profit. The War Between the States boomed the price of everything he raised and greatly increased his wealth.

In 1868, affluence prompted him to a programme of renovation on his farm. After rebuilding his extensive barns, stables and other dependencies, he turned his attention to the house he lived in.

Built in 1771, it was a dignified five-bay, two-and-a-half-storey Georgian brick dwelling. Yielding to the Victorianising mania then prevalent, Reed went the limit. The old window-frames with small-paned sashes gave way to sashes with large panes; no quicker way to annihilate the character of an old house! An ornate verandah overshadowed the house-door. A square, heavy third storey replaced the former attic. On its almost flat roof was a befrilled observatory whence Reed could survey his farms and orchards. All the external woodwork displayed the fantastic, aggressive details of the current style.

The old brickwork is visible in the ends of the house, mute evidence of what the house once was.

MORDINGTON

On side road between Canterbury and Milford, beside McColley's Millpond

Mordington, on a side road between Canterbury and Milford, is one of the most noteworthy plantation houses of southern Delaware. As most people think of Mordington, it is an exceptionally fine Georgian brick house of three-bay width and two rooms deep. In height it is of the two-storey-and-attic type. Such, indeed, is the brick part of the house, built in 1777.



Mordington. View of south front and older frame wing at right of brick structure.



Mordington, present dining room; the "great room" of the original frame house, with fireplace and closed winding stair.

What people usually fail to take into account is the lower frame wing at the east side. This, too, is an important part of the structure, and no consideration of Mordington would be complete without it.

Several factors contribute to the distinction of the brick part of the exterior. The excellence of the masonry, laid in Flemish-bond, and the belt-course, three bricks in width, carried around the whole structure, are pleasing features. The generous-sized windows, of twenty-four panes, on both floors; the panelled shutters on the lower floor; and the white lintols with fluted key-blocks all combine to give the house an agreeably wide-awake and lively aspect. The lintols and key-blocks are of wood, painted white to simulate marble. This use of wooden lintols and key-blocks, as explained elsewhere, was occasioned by the oftentimes impossibility of procuring cut stone or marble in southern Delaware for this purpose. The absence of dormers makes for the serenity of the composition and stresses the horizontal accent of the building. By no means the least of the distinctive features is the rich and beautifully detailed cornice.

The interior woodwork and panelling are of a quality consistent with the character of the exterior. The stair in the wide hall is not original. It is a replica of the original stair which was taken some years ago by a museum. In the two large rooms on the west side of the hall, the woodwork and the panelling on the chimney-breasts of the corner fireplaces are original.

The plan of the brick part of the house is perfectly regular and the same as is usually found in a three-bay Georgian structure, with the hall and stair at one side of the two large rooms.

The one-storey-and-attic frame wing on the east side of Mordington is inconspicuous but important. It is obviously an older building than the brick main block of the house, and the plan of the brick part would have been different if the frame structure had not already been there to make use of.

The plan of the frame part is an adaptation or development of the late-Mediaeval plan discussed elsewhere. What is now the dining-room was the "great" room with generous-sized fireplace and the stair winding up beside it. The woodwork also indicates the greater age of this less conspicuous part of Mordington.

The site of Mordington is unusually attractive and one can readily understand why the Douglass family chose to build their plantation house on this spot nearby their grist mill at the dam. Set amidst lofty trees, the house stands on a high knoll overlooking the placid expanse of what is marked on the maps as McColley's Millpond, on a branch of the Murderkill.

Allusion to the Murderkill suggests a word of explanation regarding a name of sinister sound. It actually means Murder Creek and has been so called since the days of Swedish rule. It is so noted on the map made by the Swedish engineer, Peter Lindeström, in 1654-56. The name was given because of the fate that befell some Dutch traders in 1648. Gerrit Van Sweeringen told how the traders invited some Indians aboard their sloop and, becoming drunk and off their guard, were murdered by them

> "soe that place was christened with their blood and to this day called y^{e} Murderers' kill, that is Murders Creeke."

It is gratifying to know that Mordington is carefully maintained in good condition, by appreciative owners who live there.

PARSON THORNE HOUSE

501 W. Front Street, North Milford

The Parson Thorne house at North Milford is a late Middle-Georgian five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure with central hall. At each side is a lower, one-storey-and-attic wing, joined to the main block of the house by a covered way. The lintols above the windows are of wood, painted white to simulate marble. This was quite usual, as already noted, in Kent and Sussex, where it was difficult to get marble or suitable stone of any kind.

The foregoing would describe the exterior as it was when built, about 1785. It was then a really fine house, and it brought into southern Delaware a fresh conception in domestic architecture; the Palladian three-part composition, with either smaller detached buildings, or else lower wings connected by loggias or enclosed

passages with the main house, forming altogether a balanced, symmetrical group.

This dignified scheme, of which there are so many striking examples in both Maryland and Virginia, had hitherto been unused in Delaware. It was quite natural that Parson Thorne, who had come up from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, should cling to a type with which he was familiar when he set out to build himself a really worthwhile dwelling.

Now, unfortunately, the house is a monument to insanity, or the total lack of aesthetic perception, on the part of the Victorian "improvers" who got to work on it in the nineteenth century. The roofs of the wings were raised (as appears from the brickwork) and sharp-peaked gables, matching the angular horror above the central bay of the main house, broke the hitherto reposeful lines of the roofs. The "improvers" were trying to make the original horizontal emphasis of the building vertical. The eighteenth-century glazing was replaced by Victorian sashes with big panes, as approved by the enlightened taste of the period, and a very ugly verandah obscured the handsome doorway. One suspects that the hanging arches between house and wings date from this age of "beautification."

Inside some dog-eared doorways and panelling remain, but much the same sort of vandalism has held sway as we see outside. The only consolation is that no serious structural changes have been made.

Yet, in spite of all the "uglification," the old house still exudes a certain quiet charm which one cannot fail to sense. It reminds one of a very shabby old gentleman, who obviously is a gentleman, though he may be clothed in rags and tatters.

About 1773, the Reverend Sydenham Thorne, a Church of England priest, came up from the Eastern Shore of Virginia to take charge of Christ Church, Mispillion, a little chapel established in 1704 or 1705 by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The little chapel, about three miles west of Milford, was locally known as "The Savannah Church" because of the nearby Savannah Swamp.



Parson Thorne House, North Milford. South front view showing much "Victorianised" features, but retaining its three-part division as built by Parson Thorne.

When Parson Thorne first arrived on the scene, according to all accounts, he was as poor as the proverbial "church mouse." His days of poverty ended, however, when he married a rich widow. It was after this conjugal influx of financial prosperity that he built his house on part of a 300-acre tract adjoining the land of John Oliver, one of his parishioners. The two men joined forces in a plan to lay out and start a new town on Oliver's land.

The upshot of it all was that North Milford was laid out and developed; two acres were given in the new town to "Christ Church, Mispillion" which became Christ Church, Milford (replacing the old "Savannah" chapel), of which Parson Thorne became Rector. North Milford which was Old Milford, rapidly grew into a busy milling centre.

Parson Thorne is described as a co-founder of Milford, a planter, mill-owner, and builder. In spite of his "political and religious principles of unconcealed loyalty to the King and to the Church of England," he was undoubtedly one of the most popular and influential men in Kent County.

BAYNARD

State Route 14 to Burrsville, Maryland; short by-road back into Delaware, to house lane

John Baynard, who died about 1708, and his son Thomas were Quakers of substantial means, who came to Kent County in the early days of the Penn régime. When Thomas, or his heir, built the first part of the house, somewhere about 1735, according to tradition, he built at a spot now almost on the Maryland line. Tradition also says the second or northern part of the house was added about 1785.

There was due regard to such architectural elegance as was compatible with Quaker principles, namely, exterior plain, devoid of any embellishment; interior with exceptionally handsome panelling and other woodwork.

To reach the house now, whatever may have been the approach at an earlier day, one takes Route 14 from Harrington, crosses the State Line into Maryland at Burrsville, and then gets back into Delaware by a little side road. Thence, after about a mile, a long lane leads to the house.

It is a two-storey-and-attic, four-bay structure facing north, with the remains of a detached kitchen connected with the *c.* 1735 portion by a covered way. The exterior is sheathed with horizontally-laid overlapping and moulded weatherboards. This feature of construction, however, is invisible thanks to a major misfortune, a coating of mustard-coloured fake-masonry from top to bottom which completely conceals the wooden exterior.

The fine surrounding trees somewhat mitigate the forlorn looks of Baynard, but it is all too evident that for a long time past owners have not lived there nor apparently taken any interest in the condition and aspect of the house. Fortunately, the house itself is structurally sound.

Of the rectangular area within the four walls, the parlour and the hall take up the whole north or front (*c.* 1785) part of the house. In the rectangular, almost square hall at the northeast corner, one of the finest stairs in Delaware ascends by successive, continuous flights from the ground floor to the attic.

The parlour, accounting for the rest of the north front, has exceptionally fine panelling and woodwork. Flanking the chimney-breast are fluted pilasters, from floor to cornice. Curiously enough, the oblong panel directly over the fireplace is framed with dog-ears at the top but has none at the bottom. Beyond the chimney-breast, in the northwest corner is a well-fashioned china-cupboard with coved top. The dado is topped by a moulded chairrail, but the spaces beneath the windows are panelled, the panelling flanked by narrow fluted pilasters extending from the skirting to the bottom of the window cills, while the rest of the space between skirting and chairrail is merely plastered in the manner of the day, an unusual treatment that helps to stress decorative values where the wall structure is not thick enough to admit of panelled window seats. The deep wooden cornice is vigorously moulded and has a "wall-of-Troy" course instead of dentils. It is gratifying to find the tenant appreciative and taking an intelligent interest in the fine woodwork throughout the house.



Baynard, north front view. The house has been covered with a jacket of fake-masonry.



The present kitchen of Baynard was formerly the "great room" of the *circa* 1735 part.



Baynard's remains of a detached kitchen. The verandah and brick chimney are of modern construction.



Baynard's parlour with elaborate woodwork of the *circa* 1785 part.

The dining-room (now the kitchen) and a bedroom fill the south (*c.* 1735) part of the structure's rectangular area; dining-room back of parlour, bedroom back of stair hall. Woodwork in both rooms is excellent. The closed stair winding up at one corner of the dining-room now kitchen (making two stairs in one moderate-sized house), indicates that the plan was derived from the traditional pattern explained elsewhere, that is, the "great room," closed stair, and "added" rooms.

Upstairs, the bedrooms, also well-panelled, have diminutive fireplaces and the panelling there has been designed to fit them appropriately into the scheme.

At one time there was a detached frame kitchen, reached by a covered passage from the dining-room. The brick chimney (at left of picture) is of modern contrivance. The verandah is modern. Original covered way to kitchen shows on plan. In the detached kitchen the great fireplace and the big brick chimney have tumbled down, leaving one side of the roof hanging unsupported. There is excellent brickwork at the two sides of the kitchen fireplace-end. The rest of the kitchen exterior is covered with overlapping moulded weatherboards over half-timber construction.

The weatherboard walls of the detached kitchen, indeed, supplied the evidence to determine the wall structure of the *c.* 1735 part of the house, only one small section of which escaped the jacket of "smear-masonry" sheets. The still invisible actual walls of the *c.* 1785 part of the house are probably of the same construction as the earlier part.

Amongst the old houses of Delaware, Baynard is by no means alone in its present forlorn plight. Many seemly eighteenth-century houses both Georgian and pre-Georgian in derivation, built by prosperous owners and lived-in by them, have eventually been turned over to tenants when the owners and former occupants have succumbed to the lure of living in towns and cities.

All that is needed to restore these near-derelicts to their pristine dignity and charm is a little well-considered rejuvenation. When this has been done, the houses so rescued have become centres of attraction and interest to visitors, and have proved comfortable dwellings to their occupants.

Such houses as Belmont Hall or Aspendale, which have always been occupied by the owners, or the Ridgely and Loockerman houses in Dover, to name no others, give convincing evidence of how much continuous tenure by the owners can mean.

PLEASANTON ABBEY

On west side of State Route 9, about three miles south of Leipsic

Pleasanton Abbey, about three miles south of Leipsic, on the west side of Route 9, is a brick two-storey-and-attic, five-bay structure, with central hall and stair. It was built about 1750, when Georgian methods of building were winning general acceptance by those who seriously considered architectural amenity in their dwellings.

The house faces east and, like so many other Delaware houses of the Georgian era, is one room deep, a feature that ensured airiness in warm weather. At the south end is a one-storey frame kitchen wing.

That the builder of Pleasanton Abbey duly appreciated elegance is evident from the fine brickwork of the facade. Not only is the carefully laid Flemish-bond an exemplary piece of brick masonry, but the belt course of moulded bricks and the moulded bricks topping the water-table are noteworthy.

The lintols and key-blocks above the door and the 24-paned windows serve no structural purpose and are merely in conformity with contemporary architectural usage. They are made of wood, fastened to the underlying brickwork, and painted white to simulate marble.

The brickwork on the ends and rear of Pleasanton Abbey is laid in Liverpool-bond. The use of Flemish-bond for the front of a building and of Liverpool-bond for the sides and rear was a quite common practice.

The "stoop" or "stoep," benches on the top step at each side of the house-door, was an agreeable feature of many old Delaware houses. In front of the house is the much-favoured row of four trees, a manner of planting found throughout the lower counties.



Pleasanton Abbey. View of south front and rear frame wing. Built *circa* 1750 with especially good interior woodwork.



Tyn Head Court. View from south front before the wing of the left was demolished.

Inside Pleasanton Abbey the woodwork and panelling are notably good, as one would expect after examining the refinements of the exterior. The whole structure is, in short, a plantation house indicative of the tastes and habits of a cultured owner who lived on his land and did not leave his home to the tender mercies of a tenant farmer.

At the time of the Revolutionary War, like many other Delawareans of consequence in both Kent and Sussex Counties, Henry Stevens, the builder of Pleasanton Abbey, was a convinced Loyalist. Although he took no active part in the conflict, the ardent Whigs of the neighbourhood regarded him with suspicion and watched him closely. They believed he was harbouring other and more militant "Tories" in his house.

One night, so the story goes, he and his French wife were entertaining some pro-British friends. When a servant came in and announced the arrival of a Whig searching party, Stevens was at a loss to think of some way to protect his guests. Only one place occurred to him where the searching party were unlikely to look. That was up the chimney. He thereupon persuaded his friends to climb up into the chimney. When the searching party got in, they looked in every place except up the chimney. Not finding their quarry, they left. Then the sooty "Tories" came down again in safety.

TYN HEAD COURT : : WETHERED COURT

Side road west from State Route 9, south of village of Little Creek

Just south of the village of Little Creek, a side road from Route 9 branches off to the west and leads to Dover. A little way along on the south side of this road is Tyn Head Court.

Prior to 1680, under the Duke of York's Government, Griffith Jones and John Glover took up the 650 acre tract called Tyn Head Court. It is on Little Creek Neck and is in East Dover Hundred.

Anent the purchase of Indian rights to the land, it is recorded that Christian, the Indian, alias Peticoquewan, "lord and owner of all the land between St. Jones's and Duck Creeks," in 1681 sold to John Glover his "Ryalltyes fishing, fowling, hawking, hunting" rights in "Tenhead Courtt," containing 570 acres.

After Penn's Government, in 1682, succeeded the Government of the Duke of York, one of the original patentees, Griffith Jones, was evidently a person of some note and figured in the governmental affairs of the Three Lower Counties. As a member of the Governour's Council, he represented Kent County in 1687, 1688, 1689 and 1690, and again in 1695 and 1697. The other patentee, John Glover, was a member of the Assembly for Kent County in 1684.

By subsequent land transfers, adjustments and re-surveys the Tyn Head tract of 700 acres passed into the ownership of Robert French. In 1713 French willed the land to his daughter Catherine, in tail to her daughters Mary and Ann. Mary, who became Mrs. James Sykes, inherited the half of the property on which the house stands. On the death of James Sykes (a member of the Continental Congress), the place fell in 1792 to their only child, Mary, who became Mrs. John Wethered. The house (shown in the illustration) and the land on which it stands then got the name of Wethered Court.

The three-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house, facing east and west, was built by 1740, or possibly earlier, as there is mention of a brick house on the place at that time. It is two rooms deep. The brick kitchen-wing on the south side, built early in the nineteenth century, was a replacement for a much older kitchen-wing of frame construction.

Across the road from the brick plantation house, on the other half of the Tyn Head tract, was an old gambrel-roofed frame house that belonged to Major John Patten of Revolutionary repute. This has disappeared. Major Patten there entertained many of Delaware's first citizens.

When William Heverin, a prosperous farmer, ship-owner and grain-shipping merchant, bought Wethered Court from the Wethered heirs about 1816, he paid what was then considered a record price for farm land, $12,500 for 315 acres. This indicated the great fertility and exceptional agricultural value of the plantation at that time. It also showed the importance of nearness to Little Creek and its shipping facilities. Farms closer to Dover brought hardly a third as much per acre.



Wheel of Fortune. South front view with brick dependencies (milkhouse and meathouse) at west side.



Snowland, near Leipsic, built the latter half of the eighteenth century.

The brick wing that William Heverin built had a large kitchen, with capacious fireplace and winding stair on the ground floor; the bedrooms above the kitchen were the quarters of the white housekeeper and her husband, the farmer. The Negro brick cabins were nearby in a lane. Gardens and orchards surrounded the house.

The last Heverin owner was something of a "high-flier." He was a keen sportsman, an excellent shot and an ardent fox-hunter. He liked to imbibe, too. He is said to have ridden his horse through the hall, also into a local tavern, and the Court House, as well.

The Heverins lived at Wethered Court until 1871, when they sold it. They were the last owners who lived in the house. Since then it has been at the mercy of tenant-farmers and successive owners.

Its present condition is not edifying. The brick wing has been demolished. The interior has been ruthlessly maltreated. Only the west room on the ground floor retains a remnant of its former dignity: in the southwest corner, a handsome china-cupboard; in the southeast corner, an angle fireplace with fine chimney-breast panelling. The corresponding angle fireplace in the east room has been demolished; a full-sized battery of electrical housekeeping-appliances lines all four sides of the room!

The name Wethered Court has been forgotten. The name Tyn Head Court is known or remembered by few.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

About two miles south of Leipsic, on State Route 9

About two miles south of Leipsic, on the west side of the Bay Road, is Wheel of Fortune, an eighteenth-century plantation house in the Georgian manner. The term "Georgian manner" is used advisedly because not a few Delaware plantation houses of approximately the same date, Wheel of Fortune was built near the middle of the eighteenth century, whether designed for Quakers or not, left off many of the Middle-Georgian exterior characteristic features while presenting a structural Georgian body. They were instances of identifiable genus, minus the requisite identification marks of species.

As for the interiors of these houses, that was another matter. They might be as plain as the proverbial "pipe-stem"; again, they might disclose all the current enriching amenities of woodwork.

In any event, not a few of these plantation houses that have what one might call a "non-committal" exterior, nevertheless show an wholesome measure of recognisable individuality. There is no likelihood of mistaking one for another.

Wheel of Fortune, with its five-bay frontage facing east, like some other plantation houses in Little Creek Hundred, is of one-room depth. There is a two-storey wing at the rear of the south end. The masonry of the end walls, and of the rear, is laid in Liverpool-bond. The front of the house is in Flemish-bond. The belt-course of four-brick width has the two central courses recessed. There is a simple moulding beneath the box cornice. The small porch at the house-door is a later addition.

Too little attention is usually paid to the dependencies on an old farm or plantation. They were just as much a part of the machinery of living as the dwellings to which they belonged. If we wish to visualise truly the pattern of plantation life in bygone times, the dependencies must be taken into account.

Oftentimes, where the original dependencies were of wooden construction, they have disappeared and been replaced by others of more modern contrivance. At Wheel of Fortune, happily coincident with the plantation's name, two of the original dependencies are intact, the meat house and the milk house. They are both substantially built of brick and stand near the southwest end of the house, conveniently reached from the kitchen wing.

The interior has good but not elaborate woodwork. In the parlour, evidently done over about the beginning of the nineteenth century, the mantel and chairrail are good examples of punch-and-gouge decoration. The dog-eared door and window-framing of an earlier date, and the robust muntins of the window sashes have not been disturbed.



Great Geneva from the north front side. It was formerly a station on the "Underground Railroad."



Cooper House, Camden. A reputed station on the "Underground Railroad" with a loft for fugitive slaves.



Mifflin House, Camden. South front view. It has simple but good interior woodwork. The small wing at the right was a later addition.



Camden Friends' Meeting. The upper part was formerly used as a school.

"Wheel of Fortune" is one of the old tracts surveyed and named in the early period of the Penn land-grants. The part of the tract on which the house stands was conveyed to John Chance in 1738. The property later came into the possession of the Nicholson family. Since the house was owned by Senator Hughes, it has been kept in good repair by tenant farmers.

SNOWLAND

At northern end of Leipsic, on Little Duck Creek

Snowland was built by some of the Naudain family in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The Naudains had extensive land-holdings in Kent County and Snowland was the plantation house on a 1400 acre tract. The winding course of Little Duck Creek, southwest of the house, affords a broad engaging vista over the marshland. The place was named Snowland for Andrew Naudain's wife whose maiden name was Rebecca Snow.

The plantation house, a two-storey-and-attic, five-bay structure, is of brick painted white and has a one-storey-and-attic brick wing, on the same axis, at the southeast end. The Victorian verandah before the house-door is, of course, a much later addition.

The belt-course between the ground and upper floors, and the absence of dormers, emphasise the horizontal accent of the orderly Middle-Georgian mass. Judging from the disposition of the windows on the southwest front of Snowland, the part of the main block of the house, to the left of the house-door, was built a little later than the three-bay part directly next to the low wing.

Snowland is a good example of the simple Delaware plantation house built after Georgian symmetrical arrangement had come into favour. While many of the external features characteristic of the Middle-Georgian manner are absent, the fundamental feeling of the composition is unquestionably traceable to Georgian precedent.

The interior of Snowland comports well with the exterior. The woodwork, though not elaborate, is good and its pattern accords with contemporary usage. The interior plainly indicates that the owners really lived in their plantation house and had not forsaken it for town or city dwelling.

Both of Andrew Naudain's sons were born at Snowland. Arnold, born in 1790, was graduated from Princeton and then studied and practised medicine. He later became a director of the Farmers' Bank and his increasing interests in public life led to the abandonment of medical practice. He was a State Representative from 1823-1827, and a United States Senator 1830-1836. He was a State Senator 1836-1839 and Collector of the Port of Wilmington from 1841 to 1845.

The other son, Andrew, was born at Snowland in 1812. He also studied and practised medicine, but eventually went into a business career in Philadelphia. In 1830 another Elias Naudain lived at Snowland. The place passed out of the Naudain family's possession about the middle of the nineteenth century.

GREAT GENEVA

About two miles south of Dover, on U.S. Route 113A, is junction with road marked "Lebanon." East on this; Great Geneva on right.

Great Geneva, near the Tidbury Branch of St. Jones Creek, is a modest-sized two-storey, three-bay brick house with a small frame kitchen wing. The tract on which Great Geneva stands was surveyed to Alexander Humphreys on "y^{e} 28 day of y^{e} 7 mo. 1663." Humphreys sold it in 1702 to Thomas England, of Hemingborough, Yorkshire. England sold the property to Robert Willcocks. The house must have been built before 1748 as it is mentioned in a survey when Willcocks sold the place to Jonathan Hunn.

The plan of Great Geneva shows an arrangement that seems to have been favoured in Kent County during the eighteenth century. (*cf.* Ridgely house, 1728; Loockerman house, 1742; and Aspendale, 1771.) The house-door opens into a room or generous-sized hall. The winding enclosed stair (usually shut off by

a door) is in a corner, and ascends behind or above the fireplace. From this hall-room doorways open into the other rooms. Variations of this plan occur, but the basic idea of a corner stair and a spacious entry seems to have had a strong appeal.

The Hunns were Quaker Abolitionists during the War Between the States and the Jonathan Hunn of Great Geneva was a leading figure of his day in Delaware in conducting the "Underground Railroad," the far-reaching and well-organised system of helping runaway slaves to evade recapture and secure their freedom.

Great Geneva, by all accounts, was an important station on the "Underground Railroad." Runaway slaves would be hidden until they could safely be passed on to the next Underground station, or stations, in Delaware, and thence onward to Pennsylvania and freedom. It is said that Jonathan Hunn lost all his property except Great Geneva and nearby Wildcat in helping slaves to escape to the North.

Former Governour John Hunn was the son of Jonathan Hunn of Great Geneva. When the old Abolitionist lay on his death-bed he called his son and made him promise to burn a history of the Underground Railroad he himself had written. It minutely detailed every fact and circumstance of that secret chapter in Delaware's history. The son promised, but as he was turning away something in his face prompted the old gentleman to say, "Son, thee meant to copy that diary before thee destroyed it, is it not so?" The son admitted he had intended to make a copy, whereupon his father made him promise to burn the record uncopied. The promise was fulfilled.

"This valuable and doubtless intensely interesting recital was fully prepared for publication; but, as the senior Hunn said, the issue was closed, and inasmuch as some of the actors in the affair were yet alive, and might be compromised thereby, he thought it best to cover the whole episode with oblivion . . ."

WILDCAT

Lane from road passing nearby Great Geneva leads in to Wildcat

Wildcat, near Forest Landing, at the mouth of Tidbury Branch, is a small pre-Revolutionary frame house. It has been so much altered from time to time that all semblance to the original structure is lost.

Wildcat belonged to the Hunns and before 1810 Nathaniel and Jonathan Hunn operated a saw-mill at a nearby pond, formed by damming the Tidbury Branch. The pond no longer exists.

MIFFLIN HOUSE

Near north end of Camden, right-hand side of street

The Mifflin house, facing southeast, on the main street of Camden, is a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure, painted a light tan colour. There is a central hall with stair. A lower wing extends from the rear or northwest side, and a low wing or office has been added to the northeast. The main block of the dwelling is one-room deep, as is so frequently the case with eighteenth and early nineteenth-century houses in Delaware.

The architectural type of the Mifflin house might be called "simplified Middle-Georgian" or "Quaker-Georgian," although there are the exterior amenities of an arched doorway with fanlight, and a belt-course of stone. The interior woodwork is good, and the panelling adequate but plain. Some twentieth-century changes have been made within doors.

Camden, known in early days as Mifflin's Cross Roads, and also as Piccadilly, is built on the Brecknock Tract warranted to Alexander Humphreys in 1680. In 1783 Daniel Mifflin acquired a 112-acre portion of this tract, called Piccadilly, and laid it out in lots. Between 1783 and 1788 he had sold enough of these lots to ensure the start of a considerable village. This was the beginning of Camden.

In 1786 the village was called Piccadilly, but was better known as Mifflin's Cross Roads. The name "Camden" first appears in a deed of December, 1788.

Camden was settled chiefly by members of the Society of Friends. Descendants of the Mifflins, Hunns, Lowbers, Dolbys, Howells, Jenkinses and Nocks are still to be found in the neighbourhood.

Daniel Mifflin was the son of Daniel Mifflin who came into Delaware from Accomac County, Virginia. The Daniel, who established Camden and built his house there about 1796, was of the fifth generation from John Mifflin, senior, who, with his son John, came from Warminster in Wiltshire in 1677 or 1678 and settled on a tract in what is now a large part of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. This tract in present Pennsylvania was granted in 1679 by Sir Edmund Andros, then Governour under the Duke of York's Government. John Mifflin, the younger, had a son Edward who migrated to Accomac County. Edward had a son Daniel who migrated to Delaware from Virginia. This migrant Daniel was the father of Daniel who laid out and fostered the beginnings of Camden.

Although most of the Mifflins stayed in Pennsylvania, the descent and migrations of the Mifflins afford a typical instance of the way in which substantial elements of Delaware's population came from the south, west and north when the Duke of York's Government had replaced Dutch rule.

The Quakers, many of whom came to Delaware after Penn's Province of Pennsylvania had been granted and set going, recognised the sterling attractions of the peninsula. No doubt, too, they appreciated an independent government, free from dictation by the cantankerous Pennsylvania Assembly.

Until Daniel Mifflin built his Camden house towards the close of the eighteenth century, the Mifflins lived in the country near Camden. It is worth noting that Daniel's elder brother, Warner Mifflin, was one of the first men in America to free his slaves unconditionally.

COOPER HOUSE

Near north end of the main village street, Camden

The house, generally known in the neighbourhood of Camden as the Cooper house, is a four-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick dwelling, painted grey, facing northwest, near the north end of Camden's main thoroughfare.

Hunn Jenkins built it about 1782. He was one of the Quakers who early gravitated to the Piccadilly Tract which Daniel Mifflin was about to lay out in building lots, with the vision before him of a future Quaker Town, a vision that was soon to be realised. The town has well preserved its Quaker poise and placidity, its leisurely atmosphere quite undisturbed by twentieth-century bustle and hurry.

Curiously enough, save for a few external changes made in the late Greek-Revival manner, such as the entrance portico, the house bears a rather Early-Georgian aspect. The door itself, and the transom with small lights above it, confirm this impression.

On entering, however, it at once becomes evident that a pre-Georgian plan has been followed. This, possibly, is a touch of Quaker conservatism.

The front door opens into a good-sized room; to the left is the panelled fireplace wall, with the stair, in the far corner, winding up behind the fireplace (*cf.* the Ridgely and Loockerman houses in Dover). To the right of the front door, a doorway opens into a larger room with fireplace and panelled wall. Directly opposite the front door is the doorway into the kitchen wing.

In short, the plan plainly reverts to a seventeenth-century precedent, a type found in its fundamental form in such houses as Resurrection Manor in St. Mary's County, Maryland, or in the first-built part of White Meadow Farm (the so-called Martin house) at Cool Spring in Sussex County. Variations and adaptations of this fundamental plan occur in Delaware from southern Sussex up to northern Kent. There are, indeed, occasional instances in New Castle County where the early plan was evidently in the minds of the builders, who made only slight variations therefrom in the final form of their work.

The panelling and other interior woodwork at the Cooper house are both in good late Middle-Georgian tradition. When various interior changes were made, and the original kitchen wing became the dining-room, some of the older woodwork there disappeared.

Strong Quaker anti-slavery sentiment increased steadily from the second half of the eighteenth century right up to the War Between the States. With this in mind, it would be strange not to find some visible reminder of it in an essentially Quaker community. Such a reminder there was in the Cooper house.

A small bunk-lined room above the kitchen, entered by a ladder, was lighted by a little round window near the peak of the roof. This fitted in with the tradition that the Cooper house was a station on the Underground Railroad and that the bunk-lined room was a hiding-place for escaping Negroes.

Later changes have sealed up the opening in the kitchen ceiling and bricked up the little round window.

CAMDEN FRIENDS' MEETING

On Commerce Street, Camden

Ever since Daniel Mifflin, in 1783, laid out his Piccadilly tract in town lots, Camden became increasingly attractive as a dwelling place for town-minded Quakers.

Although Duck Creek Monthly Meeting, near Smyrna, had originally been the controlling centre of Quaker activities in Kent County, the end of the eighteenth century saw the jurisdictional affairs of the Society of Friends gradually shifting to Camden. The last to be organised, Camden Meeting eventually absorbed all the other Friends' Meetings in Kent County.

Towards the latter part of 1805, the Friends decided to erect a building in Camden for school and meeting-house purposes. They circulated for contributions a petition towards that end, signed by twenty-three members of the Society. The signers appointed three trustees to take title to land and carry out the wishes of the Society.

To these trustees, Jonathan Hunn and Patience, his wife, deeded "a lot near the village of Camden . . . for the erection of such a building" as the trustees intended, and the Meeting house was accordingly built, with the date-stone in the gable marked "1805".

It is a two-storey, gambrel-roofed structure of brick. The front is laid in Flemish-bond, the sides are in Liverpool-bond. The ground floor has the usual seating arrangements and other provisions for the accommodation of the weekly and other meetings. The upper floor was intended for school use and was fitted up accordingly.

The upper floor, thanks to the wide spread gambrel roof, provides adequate space for a goodly number of scholars. It is well lighted by windows in the gable ends and, at the sides, by water-shed dormers in the lower slope of the gambrel.

In the upper floor school-room are still some of the old desks and other equipment left there in 1882 when the school hitherto maintained by the Meeting was discontinued. The upkeep of both the Meeting House and of the burial-ground, in which it stands, is guaranteed by a trust fund.

EDEN HILL

At west end of North Street, Dover

When Nicholas Ridgely built Eden Hill in 1749, there were six or more houses, in Dover or on nearby plantations, that might have influenced him in making up his mind what manner of house he wished for himself. In Dover, the Parke (later Ridgely) and Loockerman houses were pre-Georgian in plan, while Chief-Justice Samuel Chew's house at the southeast corner of The Green and the house he had built at Berry's Range, were symmetrically-planned Georgian compositions of five-bay width with central hall and the customary interior amenities of panelling and woodwork. In the nearby countryside, there were the plantation houses at Kingston-upon-Hull, Cherbourg and Byfield.

The house Nicholas Ridgely built in 1749 is a brick two-storey-and-attic structure, two rooms deep, which faces east towards the town. It combines elements present in more than one of the nearby houses just mentioned.

The hall of generous width, with the stair rising at the far end of the hall, opposite the house-door, along with the two rooms at the south side of the hall, follow Georgian usage in plan. The two rooms, at a lower level, north of the hall, the dining-room and kitchen, with the fireplace and a winding stair in the kitchen, indicate persistence of an earlier building tradition, the late-Mediaeval tradition already referred to in connection with other houses.

Although there is no mention in any of Nicholas Ridgely's papers of a pre-existing structure at Eden Hill, and although it has always been believed that he built the entire structure as it stands to-day, the visible evidences of construction point to an earlier date for the part of the house north of the hall.

In the eighteenth century, in building a new house it would have been the natural thing to incorporate an already existing structure. This was so commonly done in the eighteenth century that it was not thought worthy of any special comment or record. Furthermore, if there had been no structure already standing, that he could suitably incorporate in a new house, Nicholas Ridgely, in all likelihood, would have built a five-bay Georgian house, two rooms deep on each side of a central hall, with such wing or rear extension as might be required.

Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely (Mary Middleton Vining Ridgely) named the plantation Eden Hill. The natural beauty of the place appealed to her. With her love of growing things, it is not unreasonable to surmise that she had something to do with planting the trees—to the north and to the east towards Dover, that have now grown into two splendidly overarching avenues.

When Nicholas Ridgely died in 1755, his widow continued to live at Eden Hill until her death in 1761. Dr. Charles Ridgely, her son, then came into possession of the place. Thence onward the story of Eden Hill is interlocked with the story of the House on The Green.

After Dr. Ridgely's death, his widow, Ann Moore Ridgely, who loved the country, made Eden Hill her home. When her growing daughters were not visiting their relatives in Philadelphia, she taught them the arts of housekeeping, including spinning and weaving, plain sewing and fine needlework, and activities essential to plantation living. The boys, when not away at school, learned the routine working of the farm.

A touch of home life, and also an evidence of the pride and interest the family took in the vegetable and flower gardens at Eden Hill appears in a letter Williamina Ridgely, then on a visit in Philadelphia, wrote her mother in February, 1803. She writes:

> "I have just bought for you, my dearest Mother, the roots and seed you desired. I could not get any more of the melons or cucumbers than I send without giving an extravagant price. Mc Mahon would not let me have of two kinds of watermelon without paying highly. I therefore took a five penny bits worth of what looked the best. He said the meat was red and very fine. I got four kinds of cucumbers, one of which is white always, even after pickling them . . . this the seedsman and another man standing by told me; . . . I got two crocus. The other kind called saffron crocus he sd wd not do to send now . . . it is too late . . . and the moss rose had not come yet. I wish very much to have the china pink and those already sent taken great care of. All the Beans and Peas I got because they were different from any we have and you know I am particularly fond of them. The white beans look something alike but are very different. They say, the smallest are the earliest. They are all very tender; the black beans have white blossoms and when boiled are very green. I send the Illinois nuts. The Hickory I have not got now . . . The short top'd radish I have sent mixed with red radish, and the salmon radish by itself. The star of Bethlehem is a white flower blooming in a cluster like stars, very handsome . . . Remember to plant the smallest Illinois nut for me in the garden; let the ground be watered and oats put with it, & keep a little one to taste . . .
>
> I send you the bill of roots and seeds because I fear as they are in newspaper bags you will not be able to read what they are. All the beans and peas have fine characters . . ."

At the death of Ann Moore Ridgely in 1810, Nicholas Ridgely, the "Chancellor," Dr. Charles Ridgely's eldest son came into possession of Eden Hill. Up to that time he had been living at his plantation Somerville, several miles northwest of Eden Hill.

Nicholas Ridgely, born September 30, 1762, and carefully trained for the law, was admitted to the Bar in 1787. Even as a very young man, he won distinction among a brilliant galaxy of Delaware lawyers and, in 1791, when he was only twenty-nine, he was appointed Attorney-General of the State. In the same year he was elected a delegate from Kent County to the Constitutional Convention of 1792. Probably the youngest member of the Convention, he at once showed himself pre-eminently useful in all the deliberations. He was also chosen a Representative from Kent County in the first General Assembly that met in 1793 under the new State Constitution.

He retained the post of Attorney-General for ten years until he succeeded Chancellor William Killen (December 6, 1801) who resigned the Chancellorship "with the distinct understanding that Nicholas Ridgely, then Attorney-General, should be his successor." Nicholas Ridgely remained Chancellor of the State for twenty-nine years, until his death in April, 1830.

Chancellor Ridgely and his wife, Mary Brereton, were childless. At the death of the Chancellor's widow, who survived him many years, Eden Hill descended to Henry Ridgely, the son of the Chancellor's half-brother, Henry Moore Ridgely.

Henry Ridgely, born in 1817, had already "possessed" Eden Hill for a long time before he became the legal owner. When but a youngster, Henry "ran away one morning from his many brothers and sisters and arrived at the door of Eden Hill Farm a mile away. When his aunt and uncle greeted him, he announced that he had come because there he wished to live. He was in earnest about it and though but a small boy he managed to carry out his intention. His uncle and aunt were devoted to him and the Chancellor made him his heir after the death of his widow."



Eden Hill Farm, west of Dover. Built by Nicholas Ridgely in 1749.

ASPENDALE

State Route 300, about a mile southwest of Kenton

Aspendale, built in 1771-73, stands on part of a tract originally known as Duncaster. A great portion of this tract, at the headwaters of the southwest branch of Duck Creek, was deeded in 1770 to Charles Numbers, "Yeoman, of Duck Creek forest."

Charles Numbers started to build his house in 1771 and completed it in 1773. Not far off is the old "brick hole" (now a small marshy pond) whence was dug the clay to make the bricks to be used for the three-bay, two-storey-and-attic house of Georgian quality. Apart from plan, it might be classified as restrained Middle-Georgian with some Early-Georgian elements, and a venture or two into the future.

Aspendale is one of the comparatively small number of old Delaware houses that have never passed from ownership by the families of the original builders, and have been continuously lived-in by them. Charles Numbers was the great-great-grandfather of the present owner. The house Charles Numbers built in 1771 has, therefore, escaped such maltreatment as changes in ownership so often caused, and likewise the neglect and abuse incident to absentee landlordism.

The Flemish-bond brickwork of the south and north fronts is of admirable quality, and it is worth noting that two courses of moulded bricks cap the water-table instead of the more usual single course. A belt course, five bricks in width with the three middle courses recessed, imparts effective accent to the south and north fronts.

By way of contrast, the east and west ends of the house, with their twin chimneys coupled by short curtain walls, are stuccoed. When the house was completed in 1773, the ridge of the roof was slightly flattened, covered with lead, made into a deck between the pairs of chimneys, and enclosed with a balustrade. During the Revolutionary War, the lead was required for bullets. The balustrade was then removed, and the shingled roof given its present form.

The one-storey-and-attic frame wing at the west end adds a note of interest to the composition. It is a good instance of the frequent Delaware habit of having a frame wing on axis with the main body of the house. It is older than the rest of the house, just how much it is impossible to say. The particulars of construction indicate that it was already standing when the brick structure was erected. It is certainly of much earlier type, the one room, fireplace and winding-stair type, only, in this case, instead of a winding stair, a ladder or "stee" gave access to the big chamber above. The previous presence of the wing may have suggested the plan of the 1771 building.

The various dependencies, farm buildings, old lanes and divisions between the fields, have never been changed, and although there have been renewals and additions about the barn, Aspendale and its plantation surroundings are virtually the same as when Charles Numbers finished his brick house in 1773. The place is a living example of a prosperous Kent County farmstead in the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

It would be little short of a miracle if Aspendale had altogether escaped Victorian "improvement." The "improvement," however, was of very limited extent and easily eliminated. Outside, it consisted of a Victorian verandah hitched onto the middle bay of the south front, and an "ornamental" Victorian cornice. Inside, two partitions encroached upon the area of the large parlour.

When the present owner took over after the demise of two old spinster aunts, who had occupied Aspendale during part of the Victorian Era and in the years following, the only exterior restoration needed was the removal of the aforesaid verandah, and the replacement of the cornice "prettification" by a Georgian cornice in perfect scale with the house. Indoors, only the parlour partitions had to be taken away.

One of these partitions had sliced off the west side of the parlour to make a long, narrow hall from the front door clear through to the door on the north front. The other divided what was left of the parlour into two smaller rooms. When these came out, the original character of the room appeared. Its ample dimensions, twenty-eight by eighteen feet, assured exceptional dignity and spaciousness; it was actually one of the largest rooms in Delaware when the house was built. Removal of the partitions, besides revealing a



Aspendale, Downs' Chapel. View of the north front with the older frame wing at the right.



Aspendale. with view of hall and closed stair.



Aspendale, south front and older frame wing.



Aspendale, view in the spacious and elegant parlour.

room of unusual and satisfying proportions, disclosed the formerly obscured fine panelling and the cupboards at each side of the fireplace.

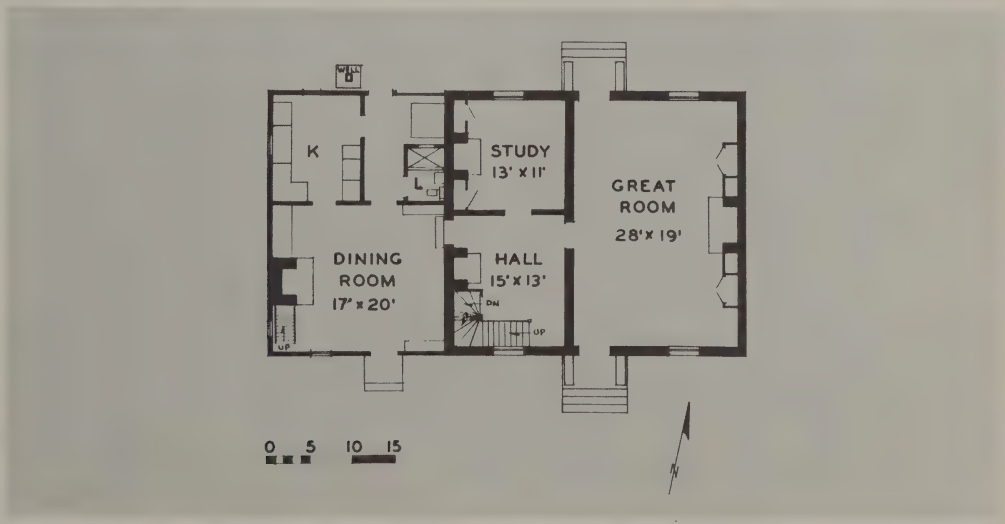
On removal of the parlour partitions, the original plan of the house at once became obvious and intelligible. When Charles Numbers built his house, he adopted the "Quaker plan" William Penn had advocated in 1684, a plan little heeded elsewhere in Delaware. Georgian methods were confined to the exterior and to the appointments of the interior. The parlour was the one big room; the partition "neer the middle" divided "one end of the house into two small rooms"; the hall and the study (formerly a dining-room). The frame wing was the "added" room and became the kitchen. Aspendale, indeed, affords the best instance in Delaware of what can be unquestionably identified as the "Quaker plan" recommended by Penn.

As to the appointments of the interior, besides the handsomely panelled whole east or fireplace wall in the parlour, already mentioned, there is a wood cornice and a chairrail but, in the manner of the day, no panelled dado. In the hall, the entire fireplace wall is panelled; there is a good wooden cornice and chairrail. In the study the vigorously panelled dado, chimney-breast and cupboards, and the robust wooden cornice, are all of a pattern much earlier than the actual date of the house. In all likelihood, the joiner had learned his craft under his grandfather and was loath to give up time-honoured practices. Instances of the same thing occur in plenty of other houses. In the upstairs rooms there is the same carefully-studied and admirable panelling and other woodwork as there is downstairs. So much for the Georgian interior dressing of a "Quaker plan" house.

There are no mantels above any of the fireplaces except in the kitchen; the panelling ends in mouldings framing each fireplace. All the fireplaces are of different measurements, including one in the attic (without panelling or any other accompanying grace) which is probably the smallest fireplace in Delaware, or in any other state for that matter.

It is worth noting that in the study the paint on the woodwork is the original coat applied in 1771, and the paint now on the walls is the same colour as the original lime wash. This same fortunate preservation of paint and wall colours occur elsewhere in the house also.

The few slight changes required to make Aspendale convenient for modern living have in no wise altered the aspect of the house. Enclosure of the north porch to the frame wing, to make a modern kitchen, has made the former kitchen available as a dining-room. Besides this, the judicious introduction of several bathrooms, so far as any visible changes go, has rendered the house completely comfortable.



Floor plan of Aspendale.



Enoch Spruance House, Smyrna. North front view. The oldest part where the banking started is fartherest at the right. Both doorways are later additions.



John Cummins House in Smyrna. An excellent example of "simplified Regency", *circa* 1820.

BANNISTER HALL

State Route 300, about two miles west of Smyrna

Bannister Hall, set up in 1866, it is safe to say, is the first pre-fabricated house erected in Delaware.

It is a frame "two-storey-and-attic" structure of five bays with central hall, and a hipped-roof surmounted by a glassed-in observatory. At the rear is a commodious wing. Across the full width of the front is a one-storey verandah, enclosed by a low balustrade with robustly-turned vase-shaped spindles.

The attic is lighted by low "lie-on-your-stomach" windows directly under the eaves. There is more headroom in the attic than appears from the outside, thanks to the rising slopes of the hipped-roof. The whole house, outside and within, is in the characteristic Victorian country-house manner of the period.

In 1865, John Anthony, of Troy, New York, was being urged to stand as a candidate for the Governorship. He felt he was not qualified for the post, despite the importunities of the politicians. At the same time, Delaware's phenomenal success in peach culture had fired his imagination. He decided to move to Kent County and grow peaches.

Mr. Anthony was a building-contractor in Troy and applied his experience in a somewhat unusual and original manner. Having secured the plans for his proposed house, he had all the materials for it fully prepared in Troy. Everything was carefully cut and finished by exact measurement, from the weather-boarding of the sides down to the balusters for the verandah, and the cornices and cresting for the observatory atop the roof.

Of course, all the interior woodwork was prepared with the same meticulous care. Including all the plumbing fixtures, everything was ready to be put in place, without any further fitting.

When all preparations were complete, Mr. Anthony had every bit of the pre-fabricated material loaded in freight cars at Troy and shipped thence to Delaware. Arrived in Delaware, the materials entirely pre-fabricated in Troy were forthwith assembled and set up on the waiting foundations near Smyrna. Mr. Anthony got his completed house promptly in 1866, without any of the usual builders' delays in finishing up. He was then free to start his peach-growing, which he did successfully.

As one goes along Route 301 westward from Smyrna, Bannister Hall is entirely hidden by the splendid growth of woodland surrounding it. Mr. Anthony started the planting of the avenue leading up to the house. Successive plantings by his son, James Anthony, and by his grandson, William Anthony, the present occupant, have produced to-day's park of lofty trees.

This park is also a veritable arboretum. Besides the many trees native in Delaware, it contains flourishing specimens of sequoia or redwood and other exotics which have taken kindly to Delaware climate and soil.

At some distance back of the "big house", among the outlying farm buildings is a little old brick house, apparently built about 1755 or 1760, showing a variation in plan from the type derived from an early Maryland precedent. Its history is obscure.

ENOCH SPRUANCE HOUSE

South side of Commerce Street near Main Street

The Enoch Spruance house presents a long, irregular front on Commerce Street. It is unmistakably a Georgian structure but, because of its irregularity, it cannot be classified in any one of the familiar Georgian domestic categories, all of which are characterised by their symmetrical disposition of doorways and windows. The irregularity is the result of growth from the original small structure.

The whole house is built of brick, with a belt course between the ground and upper storeys. The bricks are laid in Flemish-bond. Being good eighteenth-century bricks, their surface is rough enough to give the walls a virile texture, a welcome contrast with some of the painfully precise pressed brickwork of the mid-nineteenth century, which suggests a mere veneer instead of substantial masonry. The keystone lintols above the windows are of white-painted wood, in lieu of the hard-to-get marble or stone. Both doorways are of more recent date than the rest of the structure.

The oldest part of the house, built well before the end of the eighteenth century, is the portion farthest west and nearest Main Street. It once held the only bank between Wilmington and Dover.

It was not at all unusual at the time for the same building to be both a bank and a dwelling. Some officer of the bank, generally the cashier, lived in the house. The main room downstairs was the place of business, the rest of the lower floor and upstairs were the family's living quarters. Oftentimes in rural districts this arrangement persisted well into the nineteenth century. Country banking business then had a more intimate, personal flavour than in subsequent years.

In the Spruance house, the parlour was the banking room. There the directors met on Thursdays and there, especially on Thursdays, came the bank's customers. When it became necessary to enlarge the house, near the turn of the century, this parlour was architecturally refurbished with a very handsome and up-to-date plaster cornice and with punch-and-gouge woodwork at the fireplace and elsewhere. The bedroom immediately overhead was let alone and still has the excellent panelling and woodwork originally put there.

The addition bulked much larger than the original house. Its roof, with two large dormers in the attic, is perceptibly higher than the roof of the older part. Also, at the east end is a low, one-storey wing whose doorway served as the entrance to the new structure.

In the big sitting-room of the addition, the mantel and other items plainly show that the Spruance banking family were conscious of the architectural trend of the day and responded to it. In another matter they were not quite so responsive to the spirit of the age. In the entrance room or hall of the addition, the fireplace opening is closed and in front of it is a small iron stove, of more or less Franklin type. Presley and Enoch Spruance, so the story goes, bought it in Philadelphia to try an experiment. They were sceptical about "those black stones called coal" and whether they "would really burn in it, as guaranteed." The stove remains where they put it.

Spruance descendants still own and occupy this house that grew.

CUMMINS HOUSE

East side of Main Street, north of Mount Vernon Street

The house known as the Cummins house in Smyrna was built by John Cummins about 1820. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick building of five bays, with a central hall, and two rooms deep. There is a commodious wing at the rear. At the right of the main house is a one-storey brick annex (once a separate and older structure but now joined to the main house) such as it was usual for lawyers and physicians to have attached to their homes, where they could attend to their professional work in complete privacy from the main house.

The brick masonry, laid in the running bond that was customarily employed in the early nineteenth century, is of noticeably excellent quality. Likewise, the exterior woodwork, at the doorway, with its four-centred arch and leaded fanlight; at the windows, and at the well-designed dormers, is characterised by delicate refinement.

Withindoors, the well-studied woodwork, and such panelling as was used at the time, exhibit the quiet dignity and restraint that prevailed before the pretentious vagaries of the domestic Greek-Revival manner invaded the field. Also, the gratifying sense of amplitude in the hall, and in the rooms on each side of it, testifies an appreciation of just proportions on the part of the builder; an appreciation that vanished when the mania for domestic Greek-Revival design seized the American public.

The Cummins house is a striking example of what might be termed a "simplified Regency" manner, a type of design that combined much of the substantial quality of the late Middle-Georgian manner with a fresh element of the Graeco-Roman, Federal or Regency simplicity. It was a style that maintained a deserved popularity throughout the fore part of the twentieth century.

John Cummins, when he built his house, had become an eminently prosperous merchant. As one of the greatest grain merchants in Delaware, it was he who made Smyrna rank second only to Wilmington as a port.

When only a little over twenty, he entered a commercial establishment, of which he soon became the owner. Then he went into the grain business and managed it with such assiduity that his schooners plied to Wilmington, Philadelphia, New York and even to Boston, laden with grain, and returned to Smyrna with cargoes of manufactured goods. These goods Cummins had his agents convey in waggons to crossroads stores and towns in two states.

While successfully directing a widespread business, John Cummins also played an active part in public affairs. He was a member of the General Assembly for Kent County for five years, from 1816 to 1820 and, in 1820, was Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The little annex at the side of the house was his office.

HOFFECKER HOUSE

Just west of Clayton, on the road to Millington; right hand side of road

The Hoffecker house is a two-storey-and-attic structure, three bays wide and one room deep. The house faces south. At the west side is a lower wing. Both the main house and the wing are built of brick, painted white. The Hoffecker house dates from about the middle of the eighteenth century.

The lower wing at the west side is set a little back from the front, and its roof is a simple slope upward to the west end wall of the main house. This single-slope roof arrangement may possibly be the result of a later alteration, made when some other small changes took place in the wing. From all interior indications, however, the wing was built at the same time as the main body of the house, where no changes have been made.

The only change made to the exterior of the main part of the house was the addition of a verandah extending across most of the front; its design plainly shows it was an "improvement" of the mid-nineteenth century. The whole house is exceedingly plain. There is no belt course across the front. There is a meagre and very small box cornice, and the thin, narrow barge-boards have only the slightest flare at their lower ends.

Considering the extreme plainness of the exterior, it is somewhat of a surprise to find excellent interior woodwork and panelling. Over the fireplace of the chief room, the "great room," there is a large, square dog-eared panel as a central feature.

The plan of the house is pre-Georgian; the woodwork is Georgian. The plan, in fact, is an adaptation of the really late-Mediaeval "Resurrection Manor plan," already referred to in several other places, that came up from Maryland.

The "great room" (the nucleus), into which the central door of the south front opens, has the fireplace on the east side, with the stair winding up beside it to the bedrooms above. The one "added" room, not very large, accounts for the one window west of the front door. Beside its fireplace is a doorway, whence steps descend into a spacious kitchen that takes up the whole ground-floor space of the wing. It is obvious from the whole interior arrangement that the wing is co-eval with the rest of the house.

The plan shows the strong hold of pre-Georgian tradition in building the small farmhouse. In farmhouse design, the closed-in winding stair was a long time in giving way to the open stair with straight runs, rectangular treads and a banister, placed in a hall separate from other rooms.

The Hoffecker house is also significant as an example of the substantial and comfortable dwelling of the prosperous Kent County yeoman farmer in the eighteenth century. Henry Hoffecker, the progenitor of the Hoffecker family in Kent County, came from Germany in the fore part of the eighteenth century. His descendants have been active in the industrial, the banking and the political life of Smyrna and Kent County ever since.



Hoffecker House, near Clayton. The house is severely plain outside as shown in this southeast front view, but it contains excellent woodwork.



Woodlawn since 1853 when the Greek temple-front was added to the old brick Morris Rambles, built by James Morris.

WOODLAWN

East side of du Pont Highway, about one mile south of Smyrna

Woodlawn, at Smyrna, is the most successful piece of Greek-Revival "Temple-front" domestic architecture in Delaware. It is the Greekest in aspect of any of the houses in New Castle, Kent and Sussex that have been affected by Hellenistic treatment.

The word "treatment" is used advisedly, for nearly all the houses, whose exteriors bear the stamp of Greece, began life as something else. Greek-Revival "embellishment" has been applied as a process of "face-lifting."

Woodlawn was originally an eighteenth-century two-storey-and-attic brick house of five-bay width with central hall, one room deep, and a kitchen wing at the south side. In 1853, under a prevalent impulse of renovation and enlargement, the Greek-Revival "Temple-front" manner was called into service.

To the old brick west front (towards the Highway) were added two rooms of wooden structure, on both the ground and upper floors, to make the main body of the house two rooms deep, instead of one, as previously. The new facade was made of matched planking, painted white and sanded, incised with regularly-spaced lines an inch wide and nearly as deep, to simulate ashlar masonry in marble. This made an effective background for the wooden portico with its six fluted Doric columns, frieze with triglyphs and mutules, and the sweeping pediment.

In other words, to speak quite bluntly, the hexastile Greek temple facade of Woodlawn is a false front put on to give an eighteenth-century structure a more imposing appearance than it formerly displayed to the passing world.

The little wing of matched boarding on the south side of the house is a masque to conceal the old brick kitchen wing, which is just behind it. The round-headed window, set in a countersunk panel with segmental-arched top, gives a lightening Regency touch to the composition. Incidentally, the dark pointed-top shutters, which coincide with neither the lines of the window nor the lines of the countersunk panel, are without archaeological precedent in a composition which relies upon archaeology for its effect.

Inside, both the two original rooms and the added rooms were appointed with marble mantels and with the woodwork in fashion at the date of rejuvenation. These cause no strong impression, one way or another. The strong impression comes from another source.

Upon entering, one becomes immediately conscious, uncomfortably so, of the complete difference in scale between exterior and interior. The scale outside is heroic, the scale inside is human. There is a conscious jolt of sensibility on passing suddenly from one to the other. It seems like sudden asphyxiation.

Even in many of the much-admired ante-bellum Greek-Revival temple-front plantation houses of the South, conflict in scale is often disturbing, although there was frequently an attempt to minimise it by making much larger and loftier rooms, with corresponding enlargement of window and door openings.

In the wave of Greek enthusiasm that swept the country, the would-be imitators of Greek building failed to grasp the inherent difference between *monumental* and *domestic* architecture. Admiration for truly splendid modern examples of Greek monumental architecture blinded the domestic "Temple-fronters" to the facts that the Greeks didn't live in temple-fronted houses, and that monumental architecture is unsuitable for ordinary domestic use.

Furthermore, the "Temple-fronters" were oblivious to any consideration that taking a Greek temple as a pattern for a moderate-sized or small dwelling house was really perpetrating a parody on a worthy and honourable source of inspiration. Moreover, they failed to see the inconsistency of copying in wood, and oftentimes flimsily, what the Greeks had invariably built massively of stone or marble.

Fortunately, able architects kept their heads and reared Greek-Revival buildings that would do credit to any age or country. But the "Temple-fronters," obsessed by the popular fad, persisted in tacking diminutive wooden temple-fronts to little two-storey frame structures. The Middle, North-Eastern and Middle Western States are full of them. It was really a *reductio ad absurdum.*



Belmont Hall, rear or northeast view, showing two projecting wings of the original structure.



Belmont Hall. Dining room in one of the original wings.



Belmont Hall, Smyrna. View of southwest front showing railed deck on roof.

As already pointed out, Woodlawn is the most imposing example of Greek-Revival temple-fronted domestic architecture in Delaware. That is because its features are really Greek, fluted columns, frieze, pediment are all correct in detail and in the manner of their use. It is what it set out to be and its exterior scale ensures becoming dignity. Other "more or less" Greek-Revival houses in Delaware exhibit such anomalies, for instance, as square panelled box-columns, without entasis, and with box capitals.

Until 1853, Woodlawn was a possession of the Morris family and was known as *Morris Rambles*. The land on which it stands was originally patented to Thomas England by the Penn Government in 1709. In 1711, Thomas England and his wife Hannah sold the tract of 600 acres to James Morris for £67. 10. 0.

James Morris, born in Philadelphia in 1688, was the son of Anthony Morris by his first wife, Mary Jones. In 1716, the tract was re-surveyed and Penn's Commissioners patented it to James Morris. The tract was then designated Morris Rambles. James Morris built his brick house thereon in 1741-42. The brick barn he built in 1745.

The last Morris to own Morris Rambles was James Morris's great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Berry Morris. In 1853 she sold the property to her cousin, George Wilson Cummins.

Daniel Cummins, the progenitor of the family in Delaware, settled in Duck Creek Hundred early in the eighteenth century. The Cummins family had large landholdings in and around Smyrna.

A descendant, John Cummins (1777-1833), whose exceptional ability as a grain and shipping merchant built up a widely-extended business and made him a handsome fortune, built the Cummins house on Main Street in Smyrna, one of the finest "simplified Regency" houses in Delaware. It was left for his son, George Wilson Cummins, to contract a virulent case of Greek-Revivalitis when he bought the Morris Rambles property from his cousin, Elizabeth Berry Morris, in 1853. He remodelled the house soon afterwards and re-named the place Woodlawn. Under the contagious impulse of the endemic architectural mania, he did the wrong thing, but he did it very well.

BELMONT HALL

About a half mile south of Smyrna, on the east side of U.S. Route 13

Belmont Hall is justly accounted one of the handsomest homes of colonial Delaware. The inscription on the roadside historical marker near the entrance is:

> "Built on tract of land called 'Pearman's Choice'. Home of Thomas Collins, Brigadier General of Kent County Militia during Revolution and Governor of Delaware (1786-1789) who called State Convention in Dover which on December 7, 1787, was first to ratify the Federal Constitution, thus making Delaware the First State."

Approached by a straight driveway through the tall trees of a surrounding park, the stately Georgian brick house of three storeys faces southwest. The five-bay front is gabled, and the broad gable is topped by a railed deck. To the east, or rear, are two parallel brick wings of earlier date. Built in the latter part of the seventeenth century, these were the eastward projections from the co-eval structure that was demolished after the middle of the eighteenth century, to make way for the present western part of the house. To the west the front displays all the elegance of the finest eighteenth-century creations; the eastern wings present a sharp contrast in their robust pre-Georgian simplicity.

On March 16, 1684, William Penn deeded 600 acres of land near Duck Creek to Henry Pearman. Pearman called his grant "Pearman's Choice." Soon after the land was granted the dwelling was built thereon, of which the two remaining eastern wings were parts.

Thomas Collins, who is credited with the present architectural aspect of Belmont Hall, was a man of substantial means and public spirit, highly esteemed in the community. He was High Sheriff of Kent County in 1767 and was for four years a member of the Council. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary

War he was a member of the Council of Safety; he was a leading member of the first Delaware Constitutional Convention in 1776; he was Speaker of the Assembly in 1778; in 1779 he was State Senator from Kent; and from 1777 to 1783 he was Brigadier-General of Delaware State Militia.

On June 18, 1782, he was appointed Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and of the Orphans' Court. In 1786 he became the eighth President of the Delaware State by election of the General Assembly. During his Presidency Delaware promptly ratified the United States Constitution and became the "First State." Thomas Collins died March 29, 1789, during his term as President.

At the beginning of the Revolution, the Delaware Council of Safety was actively engaged in recruiting men for the State Militia. The Council agreed to give every private who enlisted:

> "a Felt Hatt, a pair of Yarn Stockings and a pair of Shoes, the Men to find their own Arms." Each man was to "be furnished with a Hunting Shirt not exceeding in value one and one third Dollars and a blanket, provided these could be procured, but not to be made part of the Terms of Enlistment."

Collins organised and helped finance a brigade of Militia and these militiamen caused him plenty of trouble. "A battalion of these rustics sent in 1777 to support Washington at Morristown, New Jersey, no sooner arrived there, after taking four weeks on the way, than they requested "the Commander-in-Chief to be allowed to go home!" They "got so uneasy to return" that General Washington wrote Collins, January 21, 1777:

> "To my great surprise I was applied to this morning to discharge your Battalion. . . . What service have they been of? None, unless marching from home, when they had nothing else to do, and staying four weeks on the way can be called service. If they would consider how ridiculous they will appear when they return without staying a week with me, they would continue here. This is probably the only time they will be needed to maintain our ground till the new Army is raised. For this purpose I hope they left home and surely they cannot think of deserting me at so important a time. . . . Please mention these things to your Battalion. If they will not stay, tell them I cannot in justice to the States give them a discharge, and moreover, that I will not suffer them to draw pay for the time they have stayed. This measure being extremely disagreeable to me, I entreat you to use your utmost influence to prevail on your men to stay. . . . On the contrary, should they go home, they will not only lose their pay, but remain the scoff of all their worthy neighbours."

Collins, it seems, was not at Morristown when the militiamen arrived there. He hastened to the scene and apparently was able to persuade the men to stay for active service.

In 1777 the State Council of Delaware met on one occasion at Belmont Hall because it seems to have been safer than the usual meeting place. By a special request from the Speaker or President of the Council, "requiring his attendance if consistent with the services he owed his chief," Collins himself had been recalled from the army under Washington.

No part of the State accessible by water was safe from hostile incursions when "British vessels could patrol Delaware Bay or when British emissaries and sympathisers [of whom there were many] could hold frequent communication with the shore, landing at night, and causing terror to the inhabitants."

To meet this insidious peril, it is said that Thomas Collins fortified his grounds with a stockade and posted a sentry on the railed deck atop the house. One dark night a marauder crept up to the house and shot the sentry on the roof. The wounded man dragged himself to a room below and died in a pool of blood. The blood stains are still visible. To commemorate this tragedy, the Elizabeth Cook Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, have placed a tablet in the hall, to the right of the door on entering.

In 1827 John Cloak bought Belmont Hall from William Collins, grandson of Thomas Collins. From John Cloak's daughter, Cummins Speakman's mother, a descendant of the earlier owners, Belmont Hall, 1867, came by inheritance to Mrs. Carrie E. P. Speakman, and has been in possession of the Speakman family ever since.

GARRISON HOUSE

On east side of U.S. Route 13, at Garrison's Pond

Good two-storey-and-attic brick house, with date, 1774, in black headers on west gable end. Good interior woodwork.

FORMER PRESBYTERIAN MANSE

On west side of U.S. Route 13, near Garrison's Pond

Plain brick two-storey-and-attic brick house; early nineteenth century.

LOCKWOOD HOUSE or BARRACKS

On west side of Main Street, south of Mt. Vernon, in Smyrna

A long two-storey brick building, much altered. Said to have been used as militia barracks in War of 1812.

COOPER HOUSE

Kenton

Late eighteenth-century two-storey-and-attic brick house, at northeast corner of State Routes 300 and 42. In good condition; excellent woodwork and panelling.

LOWBER HOUSE

East side of Main Street, in Magnolia, north of intersection with cross street

Brick house built in 1774 for Matthew Lowber; good brick work but has been painted. Frame section added about 1855.

COON DEN

Near Farmington

A large five-bay house with central hall. Of wooden construction, painted pale yellow, with white trim. A comely Georgian body in Greek-Revival Clothes. Built by Alexander Johnson in 1850.

THARP HOUSE

At northern edge of Farmington, on west side of U.S. Route 13

Built *c.* 1835 by William Tharp, thirty-sixth Governor of Delaware (1847-1851). Part brick and part frame.

TORBERT HOUSE

Southwest corner of North Walnut and Second Streets, Milford

Square brick house, painted yellow; *c.* 1825. Third floor added later. Former home of Major-General Alfred T. A. Torbert.

SOMERVILLE

Right hand side of road between Cheswold and Kenton

A two-storey-and-attic, five-bay Georgian brick house. *c.* 1800. Exterior painted brown and much Victorianised. Interior has good woodwork and admirable panelling. In one of bedrooms, a landscape painted in large dog-eared overmantel panel. Former home of Chancellor Ridgely until he moved to Eden Hill.

TIMOTHY CUMMINS FARM

Left side of Smyrna-Leipsic Road, going east from Smyrna

A two-storey-and-attic, five-bay Georgian brick house, *c.* 1800, or a little earlier. Excellent Flemish-bond masonry, with belt-course, and moulded topping to water-table. Notably good interior woodwork and excellent panelling. Occupied by tenant-farmers.

BONWELL HOUSE

Southwest from Frederica on State Route 12 to a Y junction with side road. Right on this road to edge of Andrews Lake

Three-bay, two-storey-and-attic eighteenth-century brick house in good condition. In the eighteenth century, it is said, "Quaker Bonwell," in a fit of rage killed a Negro lad working in his tannery. For a long time after Bonwell's death, an apparition believed to haunt the spot, the Old Long Dog, with body as long as a fence rail, great bushy tail and flaming red eyes—terrified the neighbourhood.

THE LINDENS

At Duck Creek Crossroads, in Duck Creek Hundred

Miller's house at Denny Mill on Duck Creek, built before 1765. Several log houses, covered with weatherboarding, nearby.

HOUSE on GAME PRESERVE

East from Smyrna on State Route 6 to State Route 9; left on State Route 9 (before extension of 6 to Woodland Beach) to first road on right

Three-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house painted white. *c.* 1750. Good panelling and woodwork.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY



Huguenot House. Oldest part built 1711 by Elias Naudain.



Fireplace and panelling in the "great room" of the 1711 part of the Huguenot House.

HUGUENOT HOUSE

At Taylor's Bridge, in Blackbird Hundred

Elias Naudain, the progenitor of the family in America, came to the Three Lower Counties very early in the eighteenth century, about 1708, in all likelihood. His father, Elias Naudain, was a Huguenot, born at Nantes in 1655, who had fled to England about the time the Edict of Nantes was revoked.

Elias, the émigré, whether born in France, or in London after the flight from Nantes, was made a denizen (naturalised as a British subject) in 1703, when he was about eighteen or nineteen. His certificate of denisation, attested before Thomas Lawrence, a London notary public, was recorded in New Castle, June 12, 1720. This London certificate of 1703 says that Elias Naudain, "tho born beyond the seas, is made her Majesty's liege subject" and is given all the rights of subjects as well as the privilege of purchasing land in any of her dominions.

Soon after his arrival in the Three Lower Counties on Delaware, Elias acquired extensive land-holdings in Appoquinimink and neighbouring Hundreds. He entered at once into the life of the community and, in 1715, is recorded as being one of the elders at Old Drawyers Church.

In 1711 he built at Taylor's Bridge the house that is generally known as the "Huguenot House," though it seems likely that the first built part may have been started somewhat earlier. This house still belongs to Elias Naudain's descendants, though for a long time past it has been occupied by tenant-farmers.

The house faces north and has two full floors and a very low attic. It is built of brick, laid in Flemish-bond, and the water-table is topped with moulded bricks. There was once a penthouse extending entirely across the north and south fronts of the house (the traces of which are plainly visible); there was, therefore no belt course.

A line of division in the brickwork of the north front shows clearly in the illustration and indicates the extent of the western or first-built part of the house. This line occurs at the west end of the present hood above the house-door. This first structure consisted of two full floors in what is now the main block of the house, and a one-storey-and-attic wing. Just exactly what was the original extent of the wing it is impossible to say, because of successive alterations and enlargements that have obliterated many of the original lines. The brickwork in the north front of the wing shows where the original masonry has been pulled out irregularly at different times, and replaced by later brickwork until nearly all of the western end is practically modern masonry.

Indoors, one treads on surer ground. Evidence, intact, shows that the plan was basically the "Resurrection Manor plan," with slight variations. The "great room" (extending the whole depth of the house from north to south) is lighted on the north by the one window on the ground floor west of the door-hood. There is a corresponding window at the south end of the "great room."

On the west wall is the capacious fireplace; to the south of it a deep cupboard with panelled doors; to the north, the winding stair, closed off by a door, to the bedrooms above. Between the fireplace and the stair, a door, with one step down, opens into the "added" room. This "added" room, co-eval with the "great room", was doubtless a roomy kitchen. It probably had a separate stair to the attic overhead.

The whole west wall of the "great room" is encased in admirable panelling; cupboard with its doors, chimney-breast, overdoor to "added" room, and door and doorway to stair, vigorous bolection mouldings adding their fitting accent to the composition. Around the whole room is a wooden cornice with excellent mouldings. From the punctilious way in which the "great room" was finished it seems evident that an addition was intended.

That addition was soon to follow. The extent of the addition appears in the illustration, all that is eastward of the present door-hood and the sharp line of division showing in the brick masonry. The house-door and two windows are in the ground floor of the addition, and three equidistant windows in the upper storey.

Inside, a door opposite the fireplace of the first-built "great room" opens into a wide hall that extends the full depth of the house. At one end of it is an open stair of three straight runs ascending to the upper



Liston House at Liston Point, built 1739. It was raided by pirates in 1717.



Hart House at Liston Point, built 1725. Visited by pirates at the same time as the Liston raid.

floor, with newels, handrails and turned-baluster spindles. At the righthand side is the south door, not in line however with the wide house-door at the north end of the hall. It is one of the earliest open stairs, if not indeed the earliest, in any of the old houses in Delaware.

The arched double door on the east side of the hall opens into a truly great room, far larger than in any house of comparable date in Delaware. Excepting the hall, it takes up the whole ground floor of the addition; in breadth, the full depth of the house, in length extending to the east end of the structure.

Its woodwork corresponds with the manner of the arched doorway in the hall. A wooden cornice, the same as that above the arched doorway, extends around all four walls. Panelled window seats are beneath its four windows; two on the north, and two on the south sides.

The entire fireplace wall at the east end is handsomely panelled in the same vigorous fashion. All things considered, it is as handsome a room as one could find in any American house of approximately the same period. The panelling and other woodwork closely resemble the same features at Hope Lodge, in the Whitemarsh Valley, built some years later. When this room was planned, did not Elias Naudain have in mind some of the things he had seen in England as a young man? Unfortunately, for the purposes of tenant-farmer occupancy, this noble room has been cut in two by a partition across the middle.

Without fully coinciding with recognised Georgian usage, the "Huguenot House" strongly savours of Queen Anne-Early Georgian character. It is, beyond all question, one of the most significant of the early houses of Delaware.

LISTON HOUSE

Near Taylor's Bridge

At the dead end of a long winding road from Taylor's Bridge to Liston Point is the Liston House, built by Edmund Liston in 1739. His father, Morris Liston, had come into Delaware before 1680 and had purchased 1200 acres from the Indians. A patent for this tract he had got from the Penn Government in 1702.

The gambrel-roofed brick house Edmund Liston built is small, but it is a good example of pre-Georgian domestic architecture, one-storey-and-attic in height, with a lower frame wing at one side. The masonry is of excellent quality, laid in Flemish-bond with black headers. The panelled chimneys, with the necking at their tops, hark back to an almost Elizabethan precedent.

The pre-Georgian plan of the main or brick part of the house is obviously of the same derivation as that of White Meadow Farm, of the Ridgely and Loockerman houses in Dover, and of others in Kent and Sussex Counties; the essential basic element being one large oblong room, with a fireplace and a stair winding up beside it to the bedrooms above and any added rooms on the ground floor, opening from the original one main room. At the Liston house, the one large room of the ground floor is almost square instead of oblong. The interior of the house has been much altered.

During the French and Indian War the Liston house was thrust into the limelight of colonial history by an incident that happened on July 12, 1747. To quote a deposition recorded in the *Colonial Archives of Pennsylvania,*

> "Edmund Liston, of Apoquinimink Hundred, in the County of Newcastle, Yeoman, being one of the People called Quakers, on his solemn Affirmation declares and affirms, that on Sunday the twelfth Day of this Instant, July, about one o'Clock in the afternoon, a Company of Foreigners, which the Affirmant believes to be Spaniards, to the number of Nineteen, came ashore in an open Boat from a Pilot Boat riding at Anchor in the River Delaware over against the Affirmant's House, which is Situate about four Miles above Bombay Hook and about half a Mile from the Banks of the said River Delaware, and as the Affirmant was afterwards told by his Daughter, as soon as they landed some of them ran to the Place where his Daughter and a Negro Girl happen'd to be getting Crabbs, seized the Negro Girl, tyed her, & put her into the Boat. This Affirmant further

Declares that the said Foreigners came Directly to him, this Affirmant, arm'd with Gunns, Cutlashes, & Pistols and telling him they belong'd to a Spanish Privateer not far off, they demanded his Negroes, Money, and the Keys of his Drawers, & having got some Keys from him they proceeded to riffle & plunder his House, & took out of it several sorts of wearing Apparall, Bedding, Cloaths, & Furniture, & tying them in separate Bundles they carried them to the Shore, & afterwards put them on board the open Boat; they likewise took a Negro Woman and two little Negro Children, one of [them] a sucking Child, and then clapping their Pistols to this Affirmant's Breast they compelled him to go with them to the next Plantation, belonging to James Hart, at the distance of about half a Mile.

(Signed) Edmund his E L Liston" mark

Governour Thomas, Governour of both the Province of Pennsylvania and of the Three Lower Counties, being then in England, his duties devolved upon the Council. The Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly not then being in session, the Councillors put the matter before the Speaker and several members of Assembly who were in Philadelphia.

The Speaker and Assemblymen would do nothing, and intimated that persons who lived in such exposed places must expect molestation.

At that time the policy of the Pennsylvania Assembly was dictated by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. James Logan, too unwell to attend Yearly Meeting himself, wrote the Meeting a letter pointing out the grave danger, the likelihood of the pirates attacking Philadelphia, and the urgent necessity of taking immediate measures to clear the river of pirates and privateers.

The Meeting sidetracked Logan's letter in a committee; the committee decided that as the letter dealt only with military and financial matters, it was not fitting to be read before the Meeting! Logan then published the letter, but it failed to budge the then political "bosses."

When the Assembly met they took the attitude that the river was long and very difficult for strangers to navigate; Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas, on the south, were between Pennsylvania and the Spaniards; New Jersey, on the east, was between Pennsylvania and the ocean; New York and New England, on the north, were between Pennsylvania and the French. Why should Pennsylvania worry? With this pusillanimous answer, the pig-headed Pennsylvania Assembly refused to lift a finger for defensive measures, against which they were "principled"!

Fortunately, Benjamin Franklin, and those who thought as he did, promptly organised the Associators and built the Association Battery as a measure of protection until aid could be sent from England to rid the river of pirates.

HART HOUSE

On same road as the Liston House

The Hart House, built in 1725, like its near neighbour, the Liston House, is of brick, laid in Flemish-bond. It is a small two-storey-and-attic structure with gabled roof, and is three bays wide.

Between the ground floor and the upper storey is a belt course, stepped at the corners. Above the windows are segmental arches in the brickwork. Over the door is a straight transom of five lights or panes. In other words, though small, so far as the exterior is concerned the house has all the earmarks of a carefully designed Early-Georgian structure.

Inside, the Early-Georgian character of the house stops. The plan is definitely pre-Georgian and is a slight variation from the "one oblong room, fire-place and winding-stair" arrangement explained in the text dealing with White Meadow Farm and several other early eighteenth-century houses.

Both the Hart House and the Liston House, their story is inseparably connected by the pirate raid of 1747, are noteworthy examples of the substantial, well-devised, brick-built homes of prosperous yeoman farmers in the first half of the eighteenth century. As a matter of fact, they are quite as large as some of the early manor houses of Maryland.

The deposition of James Hart, who lived in the house at the time of the pirate raid, adds some further details of the foray than those recited by Edmund Liston in his statement.

Says James Hart:

> ". . . about three of the Clock in the Afternoon, several People who this Deponent took to be Spaniards, to the number of fifteen, and one Man with a laced Hat, who this Deponent took to be an Englishman (being much fairer than the rest) came Arm'd . . . . together with Edmund Liston . . . . who they had forced along with them; . . . . this Deponent seeing them coming at some distance shut up and bolted his Doors and got his Gun in readiness lest they should prove to be Enemies; . . . ."

They came directly up and surrounded the house, and some of them pursued a "Negro girl belonging to this Deponent," which chase Hart "perceived thr'o a Window."

At that point, he related:

> "one of the said Company called out to this Deponent in good English to surrender or that they wou'd set fire to his House, and several Bullets were fired into the Room where this Deponent, his Wife and Children were, that one of the Bullets wounded his Wife in the Hip, & she bled very much, whereupon this Deponent thought fit to surrender and accordingly opened the Doors of his House."

Thereupon the Spaniards seized Hart, bound his hands, and started to plunder the house. They "took away the above mentioned Negro," almost all of Hart's clothing, "a pair of Gold Buttons, & several other things" to the value of about £70.

When they were done plundering his house, the pirates forced Hart "away with them to Edmund Liston's Plantation." The rest of the story, and its sequel in Pennsylvania, can be found in the account of the Liston house.

The allusion to the man with a "laced Hat" who spoke "in good English," together with data recorded elsewhere in official documents, leave little doubt that on more than one occasion the pirates and privateers, there was precious little difference between them, were aided in their depredations by disloyal and traitorous inhabitants of the country.

OLD BRICK HOTEL

Near Brick Store Landing, on a bend of Duck Creek

Near a bend of Duck Creek (for many years cut off from the main channel), and at the end of a lane into a farm, stands a gaunt derelict brick structure. High up on the south gable-end is the date "1767" in black glazed headers. The farmers in the neighbourhood now know this building only as "The Granary."

As you approach from the west, what at first glance seems to be an unusually high stone foundation for the ground floor is really the upper part of a lower floor, whose full height and proportions appear only after descending the slope toward the marsh land on the east.

This now forsaken building, forgotten by all save local farmers and trappers, was once the old Brick Hotel, for years the social and business headquarters of the region. Dances used to be held there and it was the scene of much local gaiety. It was later known as the Brick Store. The nearby landing, until about 1820, was a shipping point of first importance for southern New Castle County. The wharves, where grain vessels formerly tied up for loading, have rotted and fallen into the marsh. What was once a main channel, with ten feet of water at ebb tide, is now silted up and become a part of the marsh.

The old Brick Hotel is fifty feet long and twenty-five feet in depth. The ground floor of the building,



Old Brick Hotel or Old Brick Store. View of west side and south end.



West front view of Clearfield Farm.

entered only from the creek or east side, once held the "noisy barroom and busy kitchen" of the hotel. From the kitchen a narrow stair ascended to the dining-room on the floor above.

To enter this upper floor from the west, a flight of steps, high enough to top what looks like the exceptionally high stone foundation, leads up to a central doorway. Once inside, it becomes evident that the hotel, in its hey-day, was a place of considerable elegance. The public rooms were panelled on the fireplace walls and there are still many other traces of erstwhile refinements.

The attic, now empty except for "muskrat-trapping equipment," was once divided into bedrooms. The ceiling has gone and there is now an unbroken view, through the loft above, to the roof timbers. Tradition says this loft, lighted only by a pair of small round openings at each side of both end chimneys, was a dungeon for kidnapped slaves and, later on, a hiding-place for slaves being spirited North by the Underground Railroad.

All the brickwork of this abandoned hostelry is good. The wall of the long west front is laid in Flemish-bond with glazed black headers and, as a piece of fine eighteenth-century brick masonry, will stand favourable comparison with any to be found in the old Middle Colonies.

The old Brick Hotel is a forlorn witness to the great economic change wrought since the railroad and motors supplanted the water-borne shipment of the State's agricultural wealth.

CLEARFIELD FARM

Just north of Duck Creek (at north edge of Smyrna), on du Pont Highway, is junction with a paved side road marked "Fleming's Landing." East on this 1.2 miles to junction with another road. Right on this 0.3 mile is Clearfield Farm (L)

The house at Clearfield Farm is a four-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure painted white, with frame additions at northwest side and rear. Like other Delaware houses of its type, its appearance is deceptive; there is much more space within than is at first apparent from outside.

The interior has been much altered since the house was built about 1755. The cellar, which remains unchanged, is noteworthy. The foundation walls and the heavy supporting arches for the fireplaces and chimneys above are of admirable stone masonry. At the south end, and extending beyond the walls of the house, is a slave dungeon, closed with an iron grating. At the top of this vaulted dungeon is a circular opening, through which air and daylight entered. Food and water were let down through this outdoors opening.

In September, 1754, a warrant for a tract of 1008 acres in Blackbird Hundred (then a part of Appoquinimink Hundred) close to the north side of Duck Creek, was granted to Isaac Norris, of Philadelphia, and Isaac England, of New Castle County. This tract was called New Bristol. It was evidently this tract Captain David Clark owned in 1755, which he also called New Bristol. Five hundred acres of this tract still remain in Clearfield Farm. When he acquired the New Bristol tract in 1755, or very soon thereafter, Captain Clark built his house not far from the navigable and busy waters of Duck Creek.

Through three generations the Clarks gave a good account of themselves in the military annals of the Three Lower Counties on Delaware. Captain David did his share of duty in the Delaware militia, at sundry calls for military action or readiness, until after the middle of the eighteenth century, notwithstanding chronic Quaker opposition thereto. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the Clarks were ardent patriots. Captain William Clark, the son of Captain David, raised and led a company. He fought in the bitterly-contested Battle of Monmouth and there lost half his men. At the death of his father, Captain William succeeded to the possession of Clearfield Farm.

Colonel John Clark, the son of Captain William, was the next owner of Clearfield Farm. He was a Colonel in the State Militia, Sheriff of New Castle County, 1775-1779, State Treasurer, 1794-1799 and, a staunch Federalist, became the twentieth Governor of Delaware, succeeding Daniel Rodney in that office. He served his full term from 1817 to 1820. He died in 1821.

Governor Clark's only daughter became the wife of Pennell Corbit, of Odessa, thereby adding one more thread to the intricate web of family relationships spread over so much of Delaware.



Fairview, Odessa, designed by Robert May. View of west side and southwest front.



David Wilson House, Odessa, north front view. Now houses the Mary Corbit Warner Museum and the Corbit Library.

FAIRVIEW

Just beyond eastern end of Odessa, on road to Taylor's Bridge

In the years immediately preceding the Revolutionary War, the grain-shipping and leather tannery centre of Cantwell's Bridge, now the town of Odessa, was blessed with an outburst of activity in the building of good houses in the Middle Georgian manner. It was the direct result of intelligent collaboration between comfortably-circumstanced owners on one side, and an exceptionally capable master-builder or architect, call him whichever you will, on the other.

Robert May was the second party in this fortunate co-operation. He and his qualifications have been treated at length in John A. H. Sweeney's *Grandeur on the Appoquinimink*. May did all his work before the emergence of the professional architect as a factor in the story of American building. The achievements of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, his contemporaries and immediate successors were still far in the future. The convincing chronicle of May's performances, recited in *Grandeur on the Appoquinimink*, what he did both in Odessa and elsewhere, is surely enough to warrant him the title of architect without any beating around the bush.

This house, although it is on the other side of the Appoquinimink Creek and a little way beyond the eastern side of Odessa, is nevertheless an inseparable part of the Odessa picture. It was built in 1773 under Robert May's guidance.

Fairview is an especially satisfying example of the two-storey-and-attic, five-bay house, with kitchen wing at the rear. Its outward simplicity is combined with a discriminating elegance that appears in the moulded cills and frames of the windows; the panelling of the shutters; the well-detailed cornice; the five-brick belt cornice with three recessed courses; and the well adjusted detail and proportions of the portico. The brickwork of the front is laid in Flemish-bond; the ends are laid in Liverpool bond.

The woodwork and panelling of the interior are admirable. It is in every way elegant, but without being over-elaborated, in keeping with the dignified simplicity of the exterior. The interior of the rear wing is finished with the same punctilious nicety observable elsewhere.

Fairview, standing on a high knoll with a broad view southwards across the Appoquinimink marsh lands, was built for Captain (afterwards Major) James Moore, who served during the Revolutionary War and was an original member and, at one time Treasurer, of the Society of the Cincinnati. The Moore family lived in Fairview until 1928. Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly then became the occupants and live there now.

DAVID WILSON HOUSE

Near east end of Main Street, Odessa

The David Wilson House, at Odessa, of course belongs to the "two-storey-and-attic, five-bay with central hall" species of the late Middle-Georgian genus; that is, speaking from the bald physical point of view and counting only the fundamental characteristics that furnish the "bones" of the structure. The Wilson House is much more than a dull "species" specimen. Along with its next-door neighbour, the Corbit House, and several others in different parts of the State, it is a shining example of architectural opportunity wisely employed, opportunity to build a really fine house, an opportunity too often rejected in some other manifestations of Delawarean Georgian building.

The Wilson and Corbit houses are examples of what might have been, had the several builders of disappointing houses had a different outlook, not inhibited by "principles" of austerity, or what they fancied the promptings of a "devinely-ordered functionalism."

When general consent had recognised the "two-storey-and-attic, five-bay with central hall" species of Georgian house as a logical, convenient and desirable piece of the machinery of living, there were not a

few other Delawareans just as financially able to build well as were David Wilson or William Corbit. But, unfortunately, they were aesthetically blind or else "principled" against the idle vanities of fashion.

David Wilson, William Corbit, George Read, Nicholas Van Dyke, Jr., and some others, Heaven be praised!, had a different point of view and left an architectural heritage of inestimable value and satisfaction to posterity; likewise an unfailing source of proper pride to the State of Delaware.

David Wilson's House was ready for him about the time he married his second wife, William Corbit's sister Mary, in 1769. Mary Corbit was "testified against by the Women Friends" of Duck Creek Meeting, August 26, 1769, for marrying "a man not of our Society and with the assistance of a priest." David Wilson, it is plain, was not a Quaker.

Robert May, who was to play such an essential role in the building of the Corbit House, apparently acted in the same capacity for the Wilson House. His success with the Wilson House doubtless encouraged Corbit to trust his ability and judgement.

With the convincing dignity and the serene elegance, "elegant neatness" in Quaker phrase, of the Wilson House so fully visible in the illustration, there is no occasion to comment on the details further than to mention that the lintols above the windows are of dressed stone and not the wooden substitutes so often dictated by the long-time difficulty of getting suitable stone in Delaware. The craftmanship of the modillioned cornice, too, should not be overlooked.

The interior woodwork and panelling are what one would expect from the promise of the facade. The stair and the panelled hall deserve special mention.

The house is now open to the public as the Mary Corbit Warner Museum. It is also the repository of the Corbit Library, a public library established by Dr. James P. Corbit in 1856 and kept at the old Odessa Public School until 1924, when it was moved across the street to its present quarters in the Wilson House.

David Wilson, an alert, up-and-coming young man, came from Sussex County and opened a general store at Cantwell's Bridge, as Odessa was then called about 1760. He saw the commercial possibilities of the situation at a bend of the Appoquinimink Creek. The Appoquinimink was readily navigable for shallops of moderate draught even farther upstream than Cantwell's Bridge.

With his store on the small hill at a bend of the creek and a wharf at the foot of the rise, the situation was ideal for the establishment of a prosperous shipping and importing business. Cantwell's Bridge was already a grain-shipping port, but there was a promising field for growth. Wilson's venture prospered from the first. His energy and industry in a short time brought his vision to realisation. It was mainly through his foresight and enterprise that Cantwell's bridge became one of the chief grain-shipping centres of Delaware, ranking with such places as Newport and Christiana Bridge in the quantity of grain and milled products loaded at their wharves.

To Cantwell's Bridge came the farmers' waggons filled with wheat, oats, barley and corn to be loaded on the shallops for shipment to Philadelphia. Hides and muskrat pelts, too, often had their place in the shipments. On their return trips from the city the shallops brought cargoes of manufactured goods and other supplies needed by the farmers. All these goods and other commodities were dispensed from Wilson's general store, where they were in steady demand by the farmers in all the neighbouring district.

David Wilson's regular customers were the farm folk throughout St. George's Hundred, north of the Appoquinimink, and also from Appoquinimink Hundred, south of the Creek. More distant customers, too, even from as far west as Maryland, found it desirable to trade at the general store.

Wilson's successful promotion of Cantwell's Bridge as a lively commercial centre no doubt had its effect upon Corbit's determination in 1767 to establish his tan-yard there. Both Corbit and Wilson, it should be remembered, had substantial landholdings at and near Cantwell's Bridge. David Wilson, as already noted, was not a Quaker and was not inhibited by any qualms about "devinely-ordered functionalism." Nevertheless, he had married a Quakeress and, in 1780, gave the Quakers of Odessa their little Meeting House, Appoquinimink Meeting, at the west end of the village.

CORBIT HOUSE

East end of Main Street, Odessa

The Corbit House in Odessa, a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure of Georgian type, with a central hall, is at the east end of Odessa's main street. It stands on a bluff overlooking Cantwell's Bridge, the marshes, and the fields beyond the windings of the Appoquinimink. Atop the hipped roof, and above the tops of the dormers, is a railed deck between the chimneys. Both the belt course and the lintols over the windows are of dressed stone. This is worth noting since most Georgian houses in Kent County and southward used wooden lintols, painted white to simulate marble, because of the difficulty of getting marble or other suitable stone. The lower two-storey-and-attic kitchen wing at the south is a slightly later addition to the main block of the house.

Such enumeration of the chief physical characteristics of structure would fully answer for a number of other Delaware houses built in the middle or latter part of the eighteenth century, especially if accompanied by a good illustration. It would in no wise suffice for the Corbit House, any more than a human skeleton would be enough to convey a truthful idea of a well-shapen human figure in all its subtle symmetry and comeliness.

Two Georgian houses in Delaware stand forth in surpassing excellence. One is the Corbit House. The other is the Read House in New Castle. Beyond all question they mark the climax of achievement in the domestic architecture of Delaware. No finer instances, indeed, of the Georgian manner are to be found in the old area of the Middle Colonies. Both of them can hold their own in comparison with contemporary work in England.

With the wise leisure that often attended house-building in the eighteenth century, the Corbit House was started in 1772 and finished in 1774. It was built by William Corbit, aided and abetted by the enigmatic Robert May.

William Corbit was the grandson of Daniel Corbit, who settled in New Castle County about 1717. The family had prospered and acquired considerable land and substantial means. Born in 1745, when he was twenty years old William Corbit went to Philadelphia to learn the tanner's trade. Two years later, in the summer of 1767, he came back to Cantwell's Bridge and established his tanyard.

As a tanner, and also by investing in farm lands, he amassed a goodly fortune. Through his two years' residence in Philadelphia and his subsequent close connections with the city, he had acquired urban habits and urban tastes, as well as an interested acquaintance with the best of Philadelphia architecture. Therefore, when he was ready to build his house, he had developed a sophisticated sense of discriminating choice and probably indicated his preferences with intelligence.

The enigmatic Robert May, the exact determination of whose professional or trade status has proved so baffling, was certainly responsible for all the architectural amenities, graces and refinements that give the house so much of its beauty and charm, if he was not, indeed, responsible for the entire design.

The exquisite woodwork throughout the interior, and the admirable external graces, from the "Chinese lattis" of the roof-deck railing, and the dormer framing, to the windows and doorway, would lose half their value had the structural proportions of the house been less truly balanced. Since the hand of an amateur is nowhere discernible, it seems only just to recognise Robert May as the responsible architect, entitle him what you will, and William Corbit as the understanding patron.

William Corbit was a young man, only about thirty, when his house was finished in 1774. He lived till 1818; thus he had ample time to appreciate the beauty of his dwelling. When he withdrew from active business, he became interested in politics. Although many Delaware Quakers at that time were reluctant to take any part in government, Corbit was a candidate for the State Senate in 1807. He was not elected. He was a Federalist although, it seems, not very strict or insistent in his views for, at one time, he created a sensation by voicing approbation of Thomas Jefferson.



Corbit House, Odessa, from the east front.



Parlour of the Corbit House, Odessa.

After William Corbit's death, his youngest son, Daniel, succeeded him in the ownership of the house. He gave up the tannery when tanbark gave out and turned his attention to the land, adding farm after farm to his estate. "It was a real joy to him," it was said, "to take a poor, untidy farm and by clearing, draining, hedging and fertilising, make it beautiful." His farm practice was an wholesome stimulus to Delaware agriculture as well as a source of wealth to himself.

The last member of the Corbit family to live in the house was Daniel Wheeler Corbit, "Mr. Dan," as he was popularly called, who died in 1922. In 1938 the property was sold to H. Rodney Sharp who punctiliously restored it, furnished the house with admirable eighteenth-century furniture, and preserved it as a small private museum. In 1958 Mr. Sharp presented the Corbit House to the Winterthur Corporation "to maintain as a house museum and to develop an educational programme centred around it." The Corbit House will thus afford future generations a picture of Delaware life in the eighteenth century.

Some years ago Mr. Sharp had already created a fine, appropriate garden south of the house. Now that all the neighbouring buildings have been restored and some additional landscaping carried out, the house "has a setting in keeping with its dignity and importance."*

APPOQUINIMINK MEETING HOUSE

At west limits of Odessa on State Route 299.

David Wilson built the little brick Odessa Meeting House in 1780, as testified by the inconspicuous marble tablet above the doorway. It is probably the smallest Meeting House ever built, it measures only about twenty by twenty feet. In the division between the Orthodox and Hicksite Friends in 1828, the Odessa Meeting House fell to the Hicksites, and the Orthodox Friends attended meeting elsewhere. There were very few Hicksites in Odessa and, at last, they were represented by only one old gentleman, John Alston.

Every First Day he would walk up the street, unlock the Meeting House door, go in and hold a "meeting" all by himself. After sitting for a while in meditation, he would come out, lock the door and go home. After his death, about 1880, the Meeting House was closed for a long time. It is now open again on Sunday mornings for worship.

The Hicksites at Odessa were ardent Abolitionists and used the little Meeting House as a station of the Underground Railroad. They hid runaway slaves from Delaware, Maryland and Virginia in the Meeting House loft, and fed them there until it seemed safe to send them on their way North.

OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH

On west side of U.S. Route 13, about a mile north of Odessa

Old Drawyers Church, on an abrupt rise above the waters of Drawyers Creek, is a highly significant structure both historically and architecturally. The seventeenth-century beginnings of Old Drawyers' story are wrapped in the mists of uncertainty. A former pastor and historian of the church said "the field of this congregation began to be settled about 1671, and at various points and rapidly settled." He also wrote that "the Drawyers congregation was probably gathered by the Reverend Nathaniel Taylor, long previous to 1700.

We get away from all conjecture in 1708. In that year, the Presbytery at Philadelphia, in response to a letter from "some persons about Apoquinimy," directed the Reverend John Wilson, then the Minister at New Castle, to preach "once a month on a week day" to the "persons about Apoquinimy" who had written seeking pastoral ministrations. In 1709, the Reverend John Wilson was directed to add to the programme a sermon "once a quarter on Sunday."

*In his book *Grandeur on the Appoquinimink; the House of William Corbit at Odessa, Delaware,* John A. H. Sweeney has fully treated the family history and relationships of William Corbit; he has also traced his business career and commercial connections. Along with this personal, biographical study of the builder of one of the two finest houses in Delaware, Mr. Sweeney has considered every stage in the evolution of the house from start to finish. In doing so, he has unearthed a store of hitherto unknown material about Robert May, to whose genius must be ascribed the creation of the Corbit House. Mr. Sweeney's book is a highly valuable contribution (1) to the records of eighteenth-century social history in Delaware and likewise (2) to the history of domestic architecture in America.



Old Drawyers Church, near Odessa, viewed from east front.



Interior of Old Drawyers Church.

In May, 1711, the land on which Old Drawyers stands was bought and, shortly thereafter, the first church building, a frame structure, was erected so that the second Presbyterian congregation in Delaware had a fixed place of worship. This wooden church was enlarged in 1736, and probably later also. Inspiration proceeding from the Old Drawyers congregation eventually formed Presbyterian congregations at Odessa, St. George's, Port Penn and Middletown.

The old wooden church was at first called "Apoquinimy." Then it became "Drawyers," taking its name from the Creek on whose banks it stood. When at last the church was incorporated, it was entitled "The First Presbyterian Church in St. George's Hundred."

Old Drawyers reached its greatest strength during the pastorate of Dr. Thomas Read, 1768 to 1798. Thereafter the congregation declined, moved to Odessa, and finally was dissolved by the Presbytery. Weekly services were discontinued in 1861. The church building and the ground on which it stands now belong to the Presbytery of New Castle.

By arrangement with the New Castle Presbytery, the "Friends of Old Drawyers," a society chiefly composed of descendants of members of the Colonial congregation, care for both the Church building and the burial ground surrounding it. The "Friends of Old Drawyers" also arrange for the Annual Service on the first Sunday in June.

It was during the pastorate of Dr. Thomas Read that the present building of Old Drawyers was erected, in 1773. It is unquestionably one of the finest buildings of the Georgian Age in Delaware; one of the finest Georgian ecclesiastical structures, indeed, in the whole Country. It combines both the vigour and the grace characteristic of the best examples of the Middle Georgian manner.

The several elements contributory to the virility and elegance of the entire composition may be thus enumerated: First of all, there is the admirable quality of the brickwork, laid in Flemish-bond, with belt course extending around all four walls, and a moulded capping to the water-table. The bricks were burned nearby on the farm of Robert Meldrum, a member of the congregation.

Next, there is the symmetry of the five-bay east front, with its two tiers of windows, and the central main doorway emphasised by engaged columns and a pediment. Each one of the upper tier of these well-proportioned windows has twenty-four panes and is four panes wide. The four segmental-arched windows of the lower tier are of greater height and have each twenty-eight panes. The segmental arching seems to have been a favoured ecclesiastical touch of the period (*cf.* windows of Christ Church, Broad Creek Hundred).

The several windows on the west wall, at each side of the pulpit, which is directly opposite the main east door, are large round-arched openings. The window openings on the north and south walls are rectangular. The fenestration of Old Drawyers, while apparently simple, is in reality subtle and carefully calculated. Its propriety of scale is an essential element in the integrity of the entire design of the church. After closely examining the windows of the east front, one can readily visualise what would have been the effect had the nine openings been filled with large Victorian panes! Stained glass would have been equally incongruous.

The cornice, continued across the north and south gable ends penthouse-wise, conveys a sense of unity and coherence to the whole mass of the structure.

The architectural excellence of Old Drawyers is attributable to the ability of Robert May. His qualifications and the success of his work have already been mentioned in connection with the Wilson and Corbit houses in Odessa. His skillful sophistication is completely concealed at Old Drawyers by the all-pervading atmosphere of serene simplicity.

The interior of Old Drawyers is what one might reasonably expect after looking at the exterior. Although some changes were made to the gated box pews about 1833, the eighteenth-century character of the internal arrangements has been well preserved. All the woodwork is painted white. The slaves' gallery extends around the north, east and south walls. Against the west wall, opposite the main door, is the high pulpit with its double stairs. Above it is a canopied sounding-board surmounted by a golden dove. There is no provision for seating a choir, but in front of and below the lofty pulpit is the precentor's box where "sat the precentor with his tuning-fork to give the key for hymns sung without musical accompaniment."



Appoquinimink Meeting House, Odessa.



Naudain House on road between Middletown and Blackbird.

A leaflet, issued by the "Friends of Old Drawyers" for one year's Annual Services, aptly notes how all these features "re-create an atmosphere in which we again become aware of the dignity, the reverence and the moving beauty of the simple services which were conducted in such surroundings so long ago."

The Society known as the "Friends of Old Drawyers," to which any interested and respectable person is eligible, "organised for the care and preservation of the building and cemetery of the ancient corporation known as 'The First Presbyterian Church in St. George's Hundred'" performs a worthy task which may well excite emulation to kindred undertakings for historic Delaware buildings in other places.

NAUDAIN HOUSE

East side of State Route 896, south of Middletown

But a short distance to the south of old St. Anne's Church, on the east side of Route 896, an eighteenth-century brick house stands back from the road, approached by what was once an avenue of stately trees. It is a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic house, with a lower two-storey wing at the south end on axis with the main block. The main body of the structure, one room deep, has a hipped roof, an unusual feature in this part of Delaware.

The whole place is in the dilapidated condition that usually comes from long years of occupancy by tenant-farmers. In spite of its present dejected appearance, however, it is quite unmistakably an important plantation house built, and at one time lived in, by a landholder of considerable estate.

This plantation house presumably was built before 1750, if we may judge from certain Queen Anne-Early Georgian characteristics visible on the exterior. The straight, small-paned transoms over the central house-door and the door of the wing; the flattened segmental arches above the ground-floor windows; the vigorous belt course between the lower and upper floors; the plain box cornice; and the dimensions of the window-openings all point to an early date. The narrowness and height of the window penetrations of the upper floor are especially convincing, rather than those of the ground floor, in the present mutilated aspect of the facade.

The excellent Flemish-bond brickwork of the walls is hidden under a coat of stucco applied in the early nineteenth century. The stucco was ruled with lines to simulate ashlar stone masonry. Most of this ruling with lines has disappeared with the lapse of years, but some of it is still quite visible at the corner of the wing. This "ashlarising" of stucco was much in fashion about 1820.

The interior originally had good Georgian panelling and other woodwork. Some of it remains, but much of it was replaced by the less virile type of woodwork in fashion at the time the exterior walls were coated with stucco.

Elias Naudain, the progenitor of the family in Delaware, who built the "Huguenot House" on his plantation at Taylor's Bridge, had other extensive land holdings, especially in Appoquinimink Hundred. His sons likewise, and their descendants, continued to acquire desirable farm lands.

Which one of the Naudains built the hipped-roof plantation house on the rise south of Middletown seems uncertain but, in 1845, we know that John M. Naudain was living there. In the will of Arnold S. Naudain, dated February 27, 1845, he leaves "to children Ann I. Short, John M. Naudain & Mary E. Naudain my farm where John M. Naudain now resides, lying on the east side of the state road leading from Middletown to Blackbird." In the same document the testator leaves to "my wife, the Farm on the west side of the state road . . . where I built a house and now reside." A. Snow Naudain and Elias S. Naudain were named as executors.

Arnold S. Naudain, son of Andrew Naudain, was born at Snowland in 1790. After being graduated at Princeton he studied medicine and, for a time, practised as a physician. He soon entered into public life and was a member of the Delaware State Assembly in 1823-1827. From 1830 to 1836 he was a United States Senator from Delaware. His son, John M. Naudain, was a Representative for New Castle County in the Delaware State Assembly.

Just how long the Naudains continued to live in the hipped-roof house and maintain it as it deserved seems uncertain. Since the end of their occupancy and care, one of the most architecturally-significant houses in New Castle County has gradually fallen to its present forlorn state.

NOXON HOUSE AND MILL

State Route 896, near Middletown

The date-stone on the gable end of the Noxon house, at Noxontown Pond, is inscribed "Thomas Noxon 1740." It is a two-storey-and-attic substantially built brick dwelling of four bays frontage, with a lower one-storey kitchen wing. The exterior is whitewashed. The interior has been much altered so that it is impossible to determine the original plan as it was when the house was built. The alterations have been in a thoroughgoing way, leaving practically no visible traces of earlier arrangement. Little of the original interior woodwork remains.

The Noxon family settled in Appoquinimink Hundred early in the eighteenth century. In 1676 Joseph Chew conveyed to Johannes de Haes 400 acres, called "Walnut Landing," on Appoquinimink Creek. This land was later conveyed to the Noxons.

Thomas Noxon acquired other land in the neighbourhood also and played an active part in developing the country by means of the mills he built and operated. Likewise, he evidently had his place in the civil and administrative life of the neighbourhood for he is named in the list of Prothonotaries appointed in 1742.

A number of years before he built the house in 1740, Thomas Noxon had built and operated the nearby mill. In 1736 he had built the second mill about a mile northwest of the older mill. These mills formed the nucleus of a settlement that came to be called Noxontown, which gave its name to Noxontown Pond.

The oldest Noxontown Mill stood on a branch of the Appoquinimink Creek and was built very early in the eighteenth century. Ships ran up the Creek and were laden at the mill door with flour, meal, grain, lumber and other products of the surrounding region. Appoquinimink Creek was then a navigable stream all the way to Noxontown Pond, some two miles farther upstream than Cantwell's Bridge (Odessa) which a little later became the head of navigation.

Thomas Noxon died in 1743 and left his house and mills to his son Benjamin, and his remaining estate to his other children. Near the house were a bake-house, a brew-house, and a malt-house. The house, along with the mill building and all the other dependencies, presented the appearance of an established settlement. Business at the mill brought people there, often from a distance. Noxon's Mill and plantation became a natural and convenient meeting-place.

So it was, not only in the rest of Delaware but also in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and elsewhere in early days. Business at the mill brought the farmers from the surrounding neighbourhood. It was a self-evident spot for the social intercourse denied them on isolated farms in a newly-settled region. Soon came one or two houses, occupied by craftsmen, blacksmiths, coopers and the like, who catered to the needs of the mill's patrons. Next came a church. Such was the nucleus about which many a town in the old Colonies grew up. The mill was the seed from which the town sprouted.

It is not surprising, therefore, that at an early date a fair was set up at Noxontown. This fair was an annual occurrence and lasted for several days. Home products were exhibited and there were goods imported from England. Many persons from a long distance attended and fair-time was a season of high festivity.

A little way down the slope from the Noxon House is the old mill at the edge of Noxontown Pond. Nearby is an historical marker set up to commemorate the encampment of troops there early in the Revolutionary War.

In September, 1777, Brigadier-General Caesar Rodney hastened to collect all the militia he could in Kent and New Castle Counties. With his corps of Delaware Militia he encamped for a time on Noxon's farm just prior to the Battle of the Brandywine. From Rodney's letters at this time "there seems to have

been considerable reluctance in the militia, particularly in New Castle County, to come to the front." Now that the enemy was so near, "the 'noble ardour' has died out from a white heat to a very dull glow." However, Rodney had about 400 men with him at the Noxontown encampment.

OLD ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

South of Middletown on State Route 896 about 1 mile.

Old St. Anne's Church, Middletown, one of the most esteemed church buildings in Delaware, was built in 1768, on the site of a much earlier wooden church. It is about a mile south of the town itself.

St. Anne's is one of the parishes established by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. While it is almost certain that the Reverend George Keith came in 1703 to look the field over for the Venerable Society, the first documentary record is dated September 1, 1704. It reads:

> "Whereas Richard Cantwell and William Dyre with several others, inhabitants upon and near Appoquinimink Creek in the County of New Castle have requested us [the Commissioners of Property] that we would grant them a convenient piece of ground for erecting a Chapel for the use and behalf of themselves and the other members of the Church of England, These are to authorise and require them to survey and lay out for the use aforesaid, in the place by them designed, for erecting the said Chapel, on the left hand of the Queen's Road below the said creek, the quantity of ten acres of land that is vacant, and make return unto the General Surveyor's office in Philadelphia."

On this grant of land, the next year, 1705, they built a small wooden church that for more than sixty years was the spiritual home of the Church of England folk for many miles round. After the church was built, three years passed before the parish had a parson of its own. For occasional services the parishioners of St. Anne's had to depend upon visits from the clergy at Dover, New Castle or one of the parishes across the Maryland border.

At last, in 1708, the Venerable Society sent the Reverend Thomas Jenkins, a young priest recently ordained in the Welsh diocese of St. David's. The young parson laboured diligently but he could not cope with an unlooked-for enemy, the mosquito that bred in the marshlands of the Appoquinimink. In July, 1709, to the grief of his people, he "died of a calenture caused by musketoes," which means malaria.

Middle Delaware seems to have been as badly mosquito-plagued as South Jersey. A fellow Anglican priest wrote,

> "Poor Brother Jenkins at Apoquinimy was baited to death by musquitoes and blood-thirsty Gal Knippers, which would not let him rest night nor till he got a fever, came to Philadelphia, and died immediately. These places must be served by itinerants, and it is hardly possible for anybody to abide there, that is not born there, till he is musquito proof."

Mr. Jenkins's successor at St. Anne's did not arrive till three years later and in 1713 removed to the cure of Radnor and Oxford in Pennsylvania. From 1726 to 1735 the Reverend Alexander Campbell, the Reverend Walter Hackett and the Reverend John Pugh were successive incumbents. All the rest of the time until 1746 St. Anne's parish was without a Rector and had to get along with the occasional ministrations of visiting missionaries.

At last, in 1746, came the Reverend Philip Reading, a graduate of University College, Oxford, who served the parish faithfully for thirty years, labouring not only amongst his own flock but extending his missionary efforts throughout the neighbouring countryside.

During his rectorship the present church was built in 1768. Mr. Reading's charge of the parish ceased in the troublous days of the Revolutionary War. He felt himself bound by his ordination oath to use the Prayer Book of the Church of England in its entirety, including prayers for the King. This led to a situation that made the continuance of church services impossible.



Old St. Anne's Church, Middletown. Prospect from east end and south side.



Interior view of Old St. Anne's Church, Middletown.

Parson Reading died in 1778, much beloved and deeply lamented by his former parishioners. He was buried just outside the south door of the church. After the War the Reverend Joseph Couden became Rector of St. Anne's and Mr. Reading's son was active in the affairs of the parish.

In 1847 the church was Victorianised conformably to the taste of the day.

In 1866 began consideration of building a new church in the growing community of Middletown, one mile to the north of the old church. This new church was not built until 1872. After that, the old church was used only for occasional services.

In 1952 began the work of restoration and, since then, both within and outside, St. Anne's fabric has been conscientiously and completely restored to its pristine condition. Amongst the parish treasures is a fragment of an altar cloth, given by Queen Anne, and said to have been embroidered by her own hands. There are also a silver chalice and paten, given the church in 1759; likewise a silver beaker, made before 1723 by Johannes Nys, the early Philadelphia and Delaware silversmith.

COCHRAN GRANGE

U.S. Route 301 going west from Middletown, left side of road

Cochran Grange, just a short distance west of Middletown was built in 1842. The house is an architectural composite, illustrative of that merging of types that so often occurred in the mid-nineteenth century. Basically, the brick structure is of the five-bay Georgian type with central hall that had become, by the middle of the nineteenth century, the popularly accepted pattern for the dwellings of well-to-do Delawareans who lived on and directed their large farms, instead of turning them over to tenant-farmers.

Here and there occur touches reminiscent of the Regency manner as, for instance, in the four-centred arch of the doorway. The portico, with columns of two-storey height, is an adaptation from the Greek-Revival. There are no evidences of the capricious Victorianisation that was spreading over the country like a blight at that period, but the glass-enclosed observatory atop the roof foreshadows the oncoming vogue of the "Italian Villa" style. Altogether, the composition is eloquent of substantial dignity and comfort, and the architect, whoever he may have been, had no cause to regret the character of his creation.

Cochran Grange was the home of John P. Cochran, forty-third Governor of the State of Delaware (1875-1879). He was the first Governor in thirty years to be chosen from New Castle County; the last occupant of the office from New Castle County had been Thomas Stockton, elected in 1844. The Cochran family were of Scots-Irish descent and had originally settled in Maryland. Thence they came into Delaware from Cecil County. When the boundary between Delaware and Maryland was eventually settled, it turned out that part of Ephraim Augustine Herman's Bohemia Manor, which Lord Baltimore had granted him, was actually in Delaware. When the Cochrans came into Delaware they acquired extensive land-holdings and a goodly part of the Bohemia Manor lands in St. George's Hundred came into their possession.

Governor Cochran was born in Appoquinimink Hundred in 1809. From the time of his birth, almost his whole life was spent on a farm. Possessed of strong common sense, along with energy and industry, he added considerably to his land-holdings and became recognised as the leading farmer and fruit-grower in a part of the country famous for its intelligent husbandry. His efforts and example contributed materially to the revival and advancement of Delaware agriculture and orchardry.

To revert to the glass-enclosed observatory on top of the house, it is a reminder of a phase of country life in Delaware that has permanently passed away. Anthony Higgins has pertinently pointed out that:

> "in this house and others like it," the glass-enclosed observatory was "a symbol and expression of wealth. Nothing in Delaware agriculture before or since has quite matched the spectacle of well-groomed ladies and gentlemen taking their ease in the observatories on top of their fine houses, watching their Negroes at work in the broad grain fields and peach orchards, or merely enjoying the view in the pride of possession."



Cochran Grange, west of Middletown. Northwest front view.



Monterey, looking at east front. The wing at the right was brought from Maryland.

MONTEREY

On du Pont Highway at bottom of south ramp to bridge over C.&D. Canal

Traveling south on the du Pont Highway, at St. George's you cross the high bridge over the C.&D. Canal. Directly at the foot of the ramp, as you come down from the bridge, at the left a narrow gravelled lane runs due east and ascends a slight rise. From the start of the lane, neither house nor plantation buildings are visible. Passing between broad, well-tilled fields on both sides of the road, you at last see ahead of you large barns and silos and, at one side, set in a grove of trees, the house facing east.

Built in the second half of the eighteenth century, Monterey is a Georgian brick structure of three-bay width and two rooms deep. It seems a small house for so large a plantation but, being of two-room depth, it is actually more spacious than some of the apparently larger five-bay dwellings that are only one room deep.

Throughout Delaware one is often surprised at the seemingly limited quarters with which so many of the wealthy planters with extensive land-holdings were content. Was this an extension of Maryland tradition? At any rate, we must remember that household servants often had nearby quarters outside the master's dwelling, or else were put to sleep in small and ill-lighted attics, or in other "cubbyhole" spaces. Also, that families and their visitors had a way of "doubling up" that would nowadays be thought intolerable.

There was originally some kind of kitchen wing where the present three-bay gambrel-roofed extension now stands. The main body of the house was evidently "improved" at one time by the addition of a Victorian verandah, to accommodate whose roof about three feet were cut off from each end of the belt course. The marks on the masonry of the house front tell the whole story. The bricks of the main front are laid in Flemish-bond, but the headers are neither black nor glazed.

The key-block lintols are non-functional; they are of wood applied over the brickwork in what came to be the conventional manner in southern Delaware, where marble or cut stone for lintols was at one time almost impossible to come by.

The gambrel-roofed extension came from Maryland. It is much older than the body to which it has been added, dating as it does from the latter years of the seventeenth century or the beginning of the eighteenth. It affords an illuminating base of comparison in tracing the story of brick masonry in the Colonies. The contrast between the Flemish-bond masonry of the Maryland addition, with its black glazed headers, and the Flemish-bond brickwork of the main house, where headers and stretchers are all the same, is striking.

Some years ago the present owner of Monterey rescued the old Maryland house and brought it to Delaware and re-erected it to replace a pre-existing wing on the main house. The woodwork in the main house is good, but the woodwork and panelling in the old Maryland house are far finer and very beautiful. In re-erecting the Maryland addition, the necking and capping of the chimney have been carefully preserved.

MACDONOUGH HOUSE

Historical Marker in front of the house

The Macdonough house, the birthplace of Commodore Macdonough, is at Macdonough, formerly The Trap, on the west side of U. S. Route 13. The Trap, a triangular-shaped piece of land, is just a little to the north of Drawyer's Creek. Standing close to the road, the house is a plain two-and-a-half-storey structure, part brick and part frame, painted white. It is typical in pattern of the homes of the smaller Delaware planters about the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Close by the house is the family burial lot.

The house has suffered badly from "improvements" by Greek-Revivalists early in the nineteenth century, and still further from recent modernisation which has demolished the great kitchen fireplace and massive chimney to accommodate an imposing array of up-to-the-minute gadgetry.

The Macdonoughs were Scots-Irish. Thomas Macdonough, the Commodore's great-grandfather, was born in Scotland but, like many another Scot of his politically-troublous day, he migrated to Ireland where he settled on the Liffey, in County Kildare. He had several children, two of whom, John and James, came to



Macdonough House at Macdonough. East front view.



Sutton House, St. George's. South front and east side with Victorian "embellishments".

America about 1730. John went to Long Island. James settled in St. George's Hundred at The Trap. He lived to a green old age, dying about 1802.

Thomas, the son of James and father of the Commodore, was born in 1747 at The Trap. He became a physician and was in active practice until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. On March 22, 1776, the Continental Congress commissioned him Major of the Delaware Regiment, of which Dr. John Haslet of Dover, and Gunning Bedford were respectively Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel.

On its way northward, the Delaware Regiment spent the 4th of July, 1776, in New Castle. In his *Journal* Enoch Anderson says,

> "We took out of the Court House all the insignia of monarchy . . . all the baubles of royalty, and made a pile of them before the Court House, and set fire to them and burnt them to ashes. A merry day we made of it."

At the Battle of Long Island the Delaware Regiment and Smallwood's Maryland Regiment were brigaded together. Major Macdonough was in command of the Delaware Regiment, for both Colonel Haslet and Lieutenant-Colonel Bedford were sitting on a court-martial in New York City at the very hour of the British attack. That he met the responsibility with competence and acquitted himself with credit is evident from the letter he afterwards received from General Washington thanking him for the admirable behaviour of the troops under his command. He also bore himself commendably at White Plains and the Battles of Trenton and Princeton.

Returning to Delaware upon the reorganisation of the Delaware troops, Dr. Macdonough resumed his medical practice. In 1788 he was appointed 3rd Justice of the Court of Common Pleas; in 1791, 2nd Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and the Orphan's Court; and in 1792, Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, in which capacity he served until his death in 1795.

Thomas Macdonough, son of the Doctor, the lad who, in years to come, would be hailed as the Hero of Lake Champlain, was born at The Trap, December 31, 1783. At the instance of U. S. Senator Henry Latimer, in 1800, under President Adams, he received an appointment as midshipman when he was seventeen. In the expedition against the Tripolitan pirates he served under Decatur whose esteem and friendship he won. For his gallant services in the bombardment of Tripoli, August 3, 1804, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

At the beginning of the War of 1812 he was ordered to join the frigate *Constellation* as First Lieutenant. President Madison later ordered him to take command of the vessels on Lake Champlain. On September 11, 1814, the engagement on Lake Champlain [Battle of Plattsburgh] took place, in which Macdonough achieved his great victory. This was the turning point in the war. It had an important effect on the negotiations for peace then being carried on between the American Commissioners and the British Government.

A deeply pious man, especially in a crisis, Macdonough made his men kneel down and pray before the engagement. His letter reporting the battle to the Secretary of the Navy was this:

> "Sir:
>
> The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain in the capture of one frigate, one Brig, and two sloops of war of the enemy."

By his victory on Lake Champlain, Macdonough won a place in the hearts and esteem of his countrymen second to none then living. Congress gave him a gold medal and promoted him to the rank of Post Captain (really Commodore), then the highest rank in the Navy. Delaware, by resolution of the General Assembly, had his portrait painted and gave him a silver service. Both New York and Vermont gave him valuable grants of land.

Of the two great naval victories in the War of 1812, Lake Erie and Lake Champlain, the former has too often monopolised popular plaudits at the expense of the latter. Although Lake Erie antedated Lake Champlain and ushered in a significant change in the fortunes of war, it was the victory at Lake Champlain that completed the change and clinched the outcome. The essential difference between the

two victories was that "Perry won because he used his superiority and Macdonough because he overcame the enemy's superiority."

It is a curious thing that posterity is never allowed to forget that Commodore Perry was born in Rhode Island. By some mischance of fate comparatively few people realise that Commodore Macdonough was born in Delaware.

SUTTON HOUSE

In north part of St. George's, east of bridge

St. George's, on the banks of the present Delaware and Chesapeake Canal, is on the southern border of Red Lion Hundred. St. George's Village, beside what was then St. George's Creek, had a quiet settlement early in the eighteenth century. Very little is known about this first attempt. Some of the first settlers seem to have been Welsh, who came from the Welsh Tract in Pencader Hundred, the neighbouring Hundred on the west.

By 1730 a village was laid out near a mill dam across the headwaters of St. George's Creek, and the presence of a mill nearly always attracted residents near it. By 1735 there was a tavern to accommodate such travellers as chanced that way. In 1762, when the King's Highway was officially surveyed through St. George's, guests at the tavern were complaining of the noise made by the ducks on the millpond and creek marshes. The opening of the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal in 1829 failed to disturb permanently the peaceful quiet of the place, which had been incorporated as a town in 1825. To-day, with all the stream of traffic passing overhead on the high bridge of the Du Pont Parkway, St. George's seems to be immune from excitement and retains its ancient unruffled composure.

The Sutton House, the only structure of any particular architectural interest in St. George's, seems an embodiment of the prevailing tranquillity. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick building of three bays, with a lower wing at the rear. This wing incorporates what is left of the older portion of the house.

John Sutton, who is said to have settled in St. George's before 1750, at some time well before the end of the eighteenth century built a house where the rear wing of the present house now stands. John Sutton is described as a "merchant, grain-buyer and local financier." When the original house became a part of the kitchen-wing for the present dwelling, the reconstruction was so far-reaching and so thorough that it takes a sharp eye to detect what remains of the earlier building. It would be easy to overlook the few evidences that remain.

The Sutton House, as it stands to-day, was built somewhere about 1810 or 1815. It is an excellent example of the "simplified Regency" or Federal manner then popular and much used for city houses, though not neglected for rural use. This "simplified Regency" mode was an evolutionary stage between the later Middle-Georgian and the more studied grace of the Graeco-Roman, Regency or Federal manner as interpreted by Latrobe, Mills and their contemporaries. The Late Georgian or Neo-Classic "gingerbread" style, as exploited by the would-be imitators of the Brothers Adam, never had any vogue in Delaware.

While "simplified Regency" left off most of the Classic embellishments associated with Georgian design, it retained arched doorways, refinement of well-disposed mouldings, just proportions (especially in the dimensions of rooms), and enough general interest of detail to avoid any charge of stark austerity. Brick-work was usually laid in running-bond; Flemish-bond was getting a little old-fashioned.

The proportions of the Sutton House are generous in every respect. The arched doorway opens into a hall wide enough to convey an impression of amplitude on entering. At the far end of the hall is the stair, with treads broad enough and risers low enough to ensure comfort in ascent; altogether unlike the later Victorian stair, when both architects and housebuilders seem to have lost all capacity for proper stair planning.

To the right of the entrance door is a large parlour whose just proportions, windows big enough to admit abundant light, ceilings high enough to avoid any feeling of being cramped, carry a sense of easy comfort. The wide doorway, for folding doors, at the back of the parlour opens into another room of like dimensions.

The Sutton House in every way is a favourable example of its type. It falls between the robust elegance of Georgian design and the delicate sophistication of the fully matured Regency manner. Of course, it escapes the inanities of most of the domestic Greek-Revival performances that were soon to follow. It is reticent, but not austere. Therein lies its appeal.

Dr. James N. Sutton, a descendant of John Sutton, the house has always been occupied by the Sutton family, was the State Treasurer from 1851 to 1853. He showed a laudable concern in the regeneration of Delaware agriculture when he imported the first commercial lime and built a lime-kiln.

LINDEN HILL

On du Pont Highway, about 8.1 miles south of Wilmington (R) before reaching St. George's

Linden Hill, a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house, with a long kitchen wing at right angles to the main block, is set back from the road by a long avenue of trees. Still adhering to what might be called a "simplified Georgian" tradition in plan and exterior treatment, the interior woodwork, mantels and other details savour of a restrained contemporary Greek-Revival quality. Anthony Madison Higgins, a son of Jesse Higgins of Damascus, built Linden Hill in 1836.

Anthony Madison Higgins was one of the leaders in the revival of Delaware agriculture. In 1833 he had bought the worn-out farm land, on which Linden Hill stands, and had spread it with marl and lime. By 1850 he had made the farm highly productive and profitable. Linden Hill farm had become an outstanding example of what scientific farming could accomplish.

He married Sarah C. Corbit, daughter of Pennell Corbit, and had four sons and a daughter, Mary C., who married Daniel W. Corbit, of Odessa. In 1861 he was a member of the State Legislature, but cared little for political honours; his chief interest lay in agriculture.

He wrote for the Department of Agriculture a number of treatises upon farming and the maintenance of soil fertility. These contributions to agricultural literature were of great value in the campaign to induce the farmers of Delaware to apply scientific methods to the cultivation of their fields and orchards.

Anthony Madison Higgins's son Anthony (1840-1912) was born at Linden Hill. This younger Anthony, notwithstanding his grandfather's outspoken aversion to the legal profession, became a lawyer and a very able one. From 1889 to 1895 he was a United States Senator; J. Edward Addicks had been his arch-foe in the candidacy for a Senatorship from Delaware.

In the celebrated case of *Neal vs. Delaware,* argued before the United States Supreme Court in 1880, Higgins was counsel for the defence. The decision set a precedent establishing the right of a Negro accused of a crime to a trial by a "jury of his peers." The Neal case was later cited by Chief Justice Hughes in an important Supreme Court ruling.

Higgins was appointed by the Delaware Court to defend William Neal, a Negro accused of rape by a white woman. In a former slave State, it was taken for granted that the defence would be merely perfunctory, but at the trial Higgins made the startling request that the indictment be quashed because no Negroes had been called for the jury. The motion was denied; Neal was sentenced to be hanged. When they thought the case closed, Delawareans were again amazed; Higgins carried an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, which reversed the lower court's ruling and remanded the case for a new trial. Higgins now found himself bitterly assailed for "trying to save the life of a 'worthless nigger'."

At the second trial, in 1881, Negroes were summoned for jury duty; all were challenged by the State, but they had been officially brought into the court room and a precedent had been set. Neal was acquitted at his second trial. To guard against lynching, after the trial and acquittal he was spirited from the Court House and out of the State.

Linden Hill, like many another old Delaware home, is no longer occupied by any of the family who built it and lived there for many years. In this case, the occupants now are tenant-farmers. Fortunately, they are careful and orderly, and no damage has befallen the fabric of the building. Linden Hill is still

typical of the homes of prosperous New Castle County farmers of the mid-nineteenth century, when they themselves lived on their lands.

DAMASCUS

On du Pont Highway, about 7.5 miles south of Wilmington (R) before reaching St. George's

Damascus, a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house, built about 1790, was the home of Jesse Higgins. He was one of the four sons of Lawrence Higgins, who came hither from Belfast in 1750, acquired land lying along the present Delaware and Chesapeake Canal, married Susan Wilson, and established the Higgins family as vigorous, useful and often militant residents of Red Lion Hundred.

Lawrence Higgins was a stout patriot and, as a purchasing agent for the Continental Army, it is said he "exhausted both purse and credit" in the American cause. His son, Jesse Higgins, born in 1763, spent his early life at "Damascus, a mill-site on the Dragon Creek," a stream that flows through marshes and empties into the Delaware River. He married the niece of George Read, the "Signer" and, after her early death, married Mary Witherspoon, daughter of Thomas Witherspoon of Middletown, treasurer of Old Drawyers Church.

In 1788, when he was a member of the State Legislature, Jesse Higgins secured the passage of an Act for dyking and draining about 3000 acres of land, marsh and cripple, in Red Lion and St. George's Hundreds. This resulted in the formation of a large extent of very fertile farming land. It was on one of these reclaimed tracts that some of the earliest peach crops were grown, from which Delaware farmers reaped rich profits.

In settling the estate of Dr. Sluyter Bouchelle, his wife's grandfather, Jesse Higgins became necessarily involved in litigation. From that experience he conceived a strong antagonism to the legal profession. He declared that "an honest man could not be a good lawyer." Then he wrote a pamphlet entitled "Samson Against the Philistines," to prove, amongst other things, that all law-suits and other business differences between men could be settled by arbitration. That would be a remedy at once cheaper, surer and quicker.

A number of lawyers, scandalised at this outburst, tried to suppress the pamphlet by buying up the edition, but it found wide circulation when it was promptly reprinted in the *Aurora*. The *Aurora* was then being published in Washington, D. C., by William Duane, and Duane was delighted to annoy conservative Federalists in behalf of a warm Jeffersonian Democrat. As a leader of the Jeffersonian Democrats of his day, Jesse Higgins engaged in a noted debate, at Glasgow Crossroads nearby, with James A. Bayard, the most famous Federalist in Delaware. As the two men took turns on the rostrum, the crowd of thousands gathered for the contest, loudly cheered their respective champions.

Damascus is now but a sorry reminder of a once fine and dignified place. Converted into shabby apartments and a roadside beer joint, it is a veritable architectural Ichabod.

LEXINGTON

State Route 9, after crossing Red Lion Creek going south. Near Delaware City

On the River Road near Delaware City, Major Reybold, the "Peach King" of Delaware, built himself a house in the early 1840's. This country-seat, as befitted a wealthy magnate, conformed in every way to what were considered the proprieties of fashion.

Lexington was demolished but nearby Chelsea is of precisely the same type.

Henry Clay, so the story goes, gave the place its name in 1847 when Senator John Middleton Clayton took him there to see Major Reybold's great peach orchards. After a dinner, attended by other Whig leaders, as well as by most of Reybold's sons and daughters, they were taken on an inspection tour through the orchards and two baskets of choice peaches were picked for Clay. Later, Major Reybold asked Mr. Clay

to name his estate with its new house. Thereupon Mr. Clay is said to have answered: "Major, your beautiful house and the countryside remind me of Ashland, my own home near Lexington. I therefore suggest, sir, that you name your estate 'Lexington'."

Philip Reybold was a man who started from less than scratch, did exceeding well by himself and likewise contributed to the prosperity of the State. Born in Philadelphia 1783, he was an orphan at ten. In 1810, when he was about twenty-seven, he came to Red Lion Hundred and started farming with a partner. The partner defaulted and the farm went at sheriff's sale, with all Reybold's savings gone up in smoke. Nothing daunted, he rented the same farm and by hard work, raising sheep and pressing oil from the castor oil beans he had begun to raise as an experiment, he was soon able to buy the farm back again.

During the construction of the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal Reybold was an excavating contractor. He made another tidy profit by supplying beef and bread to the army of labourers working on the canal. He also derived a profit from brick-making, using the clay deposits on his land. He bought one run-down farm after another, restored their fertility by spreading the land with the marl he excavated along the canal, and specialised in raising grain and beef cattle.

In 1835 Reybold took up peach-raising and by 1845 he and his five sons had 117,000 peach trees in bearing in his various orchards. The fruit he shipped to Philadelphia and New York on his own steamboats. He spread the fame of Delaware peaches throughout the United States. It is said that he made more money than any Delaware farmer ever before or since. While doing so he set an example in the improvement of Delaware agriculture and likewise augmented the State's prosperity.

Lexington has been razed and is now but a memory. But it set the contemporary architectural pattern for the neighbourhood. That mid-nineteenth-century pattern is well exemplified by Chelsea, on the River Road (State Route 9) just outside Delaware City and close to the vast plant of the Tidewater Oil Company.

CHELSEA

On River Road (State Route 9) a little to the northwest of Delaware City

On the east side of the River Road, just a little to the northwest of Delaware City, an high thick hedge almost hides Chelsea, an house built in the early 1840's by T. Jefferson Clark. Its character coincides with the general pattern of current architectural expression formerly embodied in nearby Lexington.

Penetrating a narrow opening in the hedge, a narrow driveway leads through a small park of lofty, wide-spreading trees to a square brick structure of the somewhat severe aspect much admired at the time of its erection. The architect had possibly been looking at pictures of the "Italian Villa" manner of design of the plainer sort. He was certainly imbued with the determined purpose of conventional "correctness"; to be quite "correct" was more important than to take advantage of the natural site or to show originality of interpretation.

Early Victorian "correctness" prescribed that an imposing country seat should face the road or, at least, the direct line of approach; put its "best foot forward" and impress the approaching visitor. At Chelsea the house faces west towards the road with, at best, a commonplace outlook. Had it been faced east, there would have been a perennially agreeable view over the nearby expanse of the marshes and the breadth of the Delaware River beyond. So much for being "correct"!

The house is three storeys high, with an almost flat roof, the upper storey low and lighted by small windows directly overshadowed by a projecting cornice. The width is divided into three bays, with broad wall spaces at each side of the three tall second-storey windows that create the external division. The central window is of double width, evidently an adaptation from the "Wyatt" window of an earlier period.

The brickwork is in the precise running-bond of the mid-nineteenth century and the bricks themselves are of the hard, aggressive hue that characterised so much of the brickwork of that day, when it had become unfashionable to have white mortar joints.



Chelsea, looking at the west front.



Mansion Farm. North front and east end view.

There is a large wing or extension at the rear or east side of the main block. At the south side, set a little back from the three-bay front, is another small, low one-storey wing. Extending across the middle of the front is a wide and deep glassed-in one-storey portico supported by columns of the box-like, angular type derived from the decadence of the domestic-Greek-Revival taste.

Inside, the rooms on both sides of the central hall are spacious, with ceilings of sufficient height. The woodwork is simple in pattern but well-executed, and its design accords with the rest of the house. The mantels are of the Victorian white or veined marble taste.

As a dwelling, Chelsea can be described as physically comfortable, but a sacrifice to "correctness" in the matter of aesthetic possibilities. The omnipresent compliance with contemporary "correctness," both inside and out, recalls the era of antimacassars, overstuffed sofas and armchairs and, one might add, Dresden china spittoons.

MANSION FARM

West side of River Road, at Hamburg Lane, south of New Castle

On the west side of the River Road, several miles south of New Castle, just beyond the rifle range and west of the entrance to Hamburg Lane, is an eighteenth-century brick plantation house known as Mansion Farm. The main part of the house, facing southeast, Colonel Alexander Porter built in 1750. His initials and the date appear in black headers in the gable and chimney-base of the southwest wall.

The definitely dated part of the structure, which is the only part that appears in the illustration, is really the culmination of a course of building that began many years earlier. Behind the northeast end of the 1750 part of the house is a long wing, stretching southward, which consists of two antecedent brick structures erected at separate dates.

The earlier is the farthest from the present main house. So far as it is possible to judge after repeated changes and adaptations in the passage of years, this little dwelling followed the "Resurrection Manor plan"; one main room, with fireplace and winding stair to the bedroom or bedrooms above.

The second building, which connects the first small structure with the present main house, seems to have repeated the arrangement of the first, with a little additional space. In these two joined structures, that now make the rear wing of the 1750 part, what little remains of the original woodwork is good and worthy of consideration.

The five bay 1750 part of the house is definitely Early-Georgian in tone; witness the straight, small-paned transom above the double door, the segmental arches above openings in the brickwork; the penthouse across the whole front, the coved cornice, and the chimney-top neckings and mouldings. The brickwork of the front is laid in Flemish-bond; Liverpool bond is used for the end walls.

The specific date, 1750, is another plain evidence that by the middle of the eighteenth century the Georgian principle of symmetrical plan, with central hall and stair, had won general acceptance in house-building, although for some years afterwards houses were occasionally built with a pre-Georgian arrangement adapted from the old elemental "great room" with "added" rooms scheme, along with Georgian woodwork and other features of Georgian origin.

Inside the house the woodwork is excellent. Dados, window-seats, cornices and the stair are all in vigorous Early-Georgian manner. The overmantel panelling and the china cupboards are especially fine.

Colonel Porter was one of the Deputies from New Castle County to the first Constitutional Convention of the State, which met at New Castle, August 27, 1776, which on the ensuing 20th of September promulgated Delaware's first State Constitution. In 1786, along with Gunning Bedford, Jacob Broom and others from New Castle County, Colonel Porter was a member of the State House of Representatives. In 1787, 1788 and 1794 he served again in the same capacity. In 1790, together with Nicholas Van Dyke, Richard Cantwell, George Read, Thomas McKean and several other New Castle County worthies, he was a State Senator; and again, in 1796, he sat in the State Senate.



Buena Vista near State Road. East front view showing a recent addition at the left.



Lewden House, near Christiana Bridge. Southwest front.

BUENA VISTA

On west side of U.S. Route 13, a little more than a mile south of junction of U.S. Routes 13 and 40

Buena Vista, named for the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War, is the country home John Middleton Clayton built for himself just before the middle of the nineteenth century. The house was finished in 1846-47. As President Taylor's friend and Secretary of State, it was natural that Clayton should name his house Buena Vista. Quite apart from that connection, the name is appropriate. Standing on a rise a few miles to the southwest of New Castle, the house overlooks a broad expanse of farmland stretching away towards the Delaware River. It has truly a Good View to look upon.

John Middleton Clayton's brilliant record of achievements, both in the field of National service and also as a devoted public servant of his native State, is too well known to need any rehearsal here. But it will not be amiss to recall one facet of his many-sided activities that the general public too often ignores or wholly forgets, his role as a scientific farmer.

When Delaware agriculture was badly in the doldrums, and many a farmer was hard put to it to eke out a bare living, Clayton was one of the most active and persistent promoters of land conservation and improvement of farming practice. With his customary thoroughness when he tackled a problem, he not only studied and mastered the practicable methods of effecting the much-needed reform, and helped to disseminate the knowledge of them, but he also put them into actual practice on his own land at Buena Vista. Much of his land there, when he acquired it, was exhausted and unproductive.

Approached by a long avenue of tall trees, and set amid fields of exemplary tilth, Buena Vista to-day is an eloquent memorial of John Middleton Clayton's far-reaching service to the State of Delaware as a farmer. The house "farmer" Clayton built on his farm is a five-bay, two-storey brick structure. The pitch of the roof slopes, both front and back, has been so flattened that the attic area is but a low air chamber over the rooms of the upper floor. Buena Vista was obviously designed by an architect. The house embodies features and methods of construction that no master-builder of the day, no matter how capable he might have been, would have attempted, even if he had known about them.

Had a master builder, guided by customary Delaware usage, built Buena Vista, we may be sure the gable-end walls would have had cornices and eaves; that the front likewise would have had a cornice and eaves; and that the dimensions and placing of the windows would have been quite different. To connect the pair of end chimneys by a balustrade, instead of a brick curtain wall, was likewise a departure from the generally-accepted local precedent.

To whom, then, shall we ascribe the end walls carried up beyond the gable-roof line as low parapets, capped with marble and ending in corbelled kneelers; the Hellenic-looking frontone rising behind the cornice of the front; or the generously-designed windows; and the meticulously-correct fluted Doric columns of the verandah? When Buena Vista was built, it was a period of change and experiment. The Greek-Revival enthusiasm had lost somewhat of its first impact. It was being closely followed by two fresh enthusiasms that were making strong appeals to popular imagination, one for Gothic precedent, the other for the so-called "Italian Villa" manner. Conservative architectural judgement seemed to be at a discount.

Record is lacking anent the name of the architect who designed Buena Vista. That such record will some time turn up, perhaps in a totally unexpected place, is a thing to be hoped for. Meanwhile, a conjecture is worth considering.

On the basis of analogy with their known work in other places, there were three architects in active practice at the time, any one of whom might have furnished the design: William Strickland, John Haviland and Thomas Ustick Walter. Strickland, from 1844 onward was so fully engaged in Nashville that he can scarcely be considered as a possibility. Both Haviland and Walter were men of scholarly outlook and mature experience. Both had used Greek precedent intelligently in their work and had distinguished between what was fitting for public structures and what was suitable for domestic use. In designing Buena Vista, either

one or the other of them, or possibly some third but equally judicious designer, produced a sane and reasonable composition characterised by a definitely Greek flavour.

Buena Vista, in short, as originally finished, affords an admirable and satisfying instance of the Greek-Revival inspiration understandingly interpreted and discreetly adjusted to the requirements of domestic habitation. The long wing to the west of the main block, left side of illustration, is a much later addition. As originally finished for John Middleton Clayton, the house consisted of the five-bay block with its six Doric-columned verandah, and the service wing or extension at the rear or north. Its general aspect is straightforward and emphatic. Along with its sturdy air of massive reserve, it combines great dignity with an accompanying appropriate grace. Another discernible attribute is the hospitable atmosphere it diffuses.

As a Senator, John Middleton Clayton had gained a reputation in Washington as a genial host at whose house the senatorial celebrities and government officials were prone to gather. During his residence at the Read House in New Castle, while Buena Vista was a-building, his former Washington associates often paid him visits, and in the Read House garden the spot is still pointed out where they played quoits.

It was but natural, then, that when Clayton moved into his new house, the visits of statesmen should continue at Buena Vista. Perhaps the most noted of these many eminent visitors was Henry Clay, who was a guest at Buena Vista in 1847. When Clay arrived at New Castle he was mobbed by crowds of admirers in an almost riotous ovation from which Clayton at last rescued him and bore him off to the peaceful atmosphere of Buena Vista. It was during this visit that Clayton took Henry Clay on a tour of inspection, amongst other places to Lexington, the home of Major Reybold.

The present owner and occupant of Buena Vista is John Middleton Clayton's great-nephew, the Honorable Clayton Douglass Buck, Governor of Delaware from 1929 to 1937 and U. S. Senator 1943 to 1949.

LEWDEN HOUSE

In Christiana, near the bridge

In 1669 a patent was issued for a tract along the winding Christina River "on ye South syde of Swarte Nutten island being a hook of land called Bellye." This was opposite the Newport of to-day. In the late seventeenth century, or very early in the eighteenth, the progenitor of the Lewden family bought the island and Bellye. In 1736 John Lewden built a substantial brick house on the island and the place became known as Lewden's Island. This house was demolished and part of it was re-erected in Middletown. Lewden's property extended up the river to Christiana Bridge and that part got the name "Fishing Place."

John Lewden died in 1744, leaving house and lands to his two sons, John and Josiah, both of whom had large families. In 1770 John built a large brick house at Christiana Bridge, in which he lived till his death. The house was considerably enlarged in 1815, presumably to accommodate the store that was one item in the Lewden's varied commercial undertakings.

The Lewden house, as it stands to-day, is a comely, dignified five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick Georgian structure, with a lower brick extension at the rear. The Flemish-bond brickwork and the generous-sized windows are especially praiseworthy. In short, it is a convincing example of the Quaker version of the Georgian manner.

The eighteenth-century Quakers, in their architectural expressions, chose the seemly and utilitarian, but without the little amenities and graces that were elsewhere contemporary. They were functionalists. By the end of the eighteenth century, long before that, the English-speaking world had arrived at what was commonly accepted as an ideal and satisfying type of domestic domicile, conducive to comfort and convenience. The Quakers approved and employed such fundamental Georgian factors as plan, dimensions of rooms and methods of structure but, in the late eighteenth century when the cult of austerity was prevalent, they were prone to dispense with such structural non-essentials as fanlights, pediments, engaged columns, ornate pilasters, belt courses between lower and upper storeys, and elaborately-detailed and highly decorative cornices. The engaged columns and entablature of the doorway seem to date from the 1815 enlargement.

Query, did the builder finish off with the little "shed roof" because a pediment would encroach on the upstairs window, or were the clients "convinced" against pediments?

This preference for exterior plainness, however, did not prevent them from having much excellent panelling inside their houses. In this matter they accepted the mode of the period without cavil although, of course, they forbore such elaboration in carved woodwork as might be found in some of the Annapolis houses or at China Hall in Pennsylvania.

Jeremiah, the son of the John Lewden who built the house at Christiana Bridge, lived there next. Dying in 1840, he left the homestead to his sons, Josiah and John, who continued to occupy the old house, with about 250 acres of land, until 1900.

As farmers, tanners, storekeepers, ship-owners and traders, successive generations of Lewdens dominated the economic life of Christiana for more than 175 years. Their ships, sailing from Christiana (the head of the Christina's navigation), carried grain, calf-skin, side-sole, sheep belt, other leather commodities and flour to Philadelphia and the West Indies. The firm of Lewden and Duhamel had an office and warehouse in Cap Francois on the island of Santo Domingo when the town was burned and pillaged during the slave uprising. Many of the French plantation owners, forced to flee during this rebellion, came to Wilmington on Lewden-chartered ships.

The Lewdens were originally Quakers, members of the New Castle Meeting. As the number of Friends increased in the neighbourhood of Christiana, meetings were held in the Lewden house before the Meeting House at Stanton was built.

After the death of the last two Lewden brothers, the property which had been in the family for two centuries, changed hands. The house fell upon evil days. The tenant family used the living-room as a chicken coop and desecrated the house and its garden in many other ways. Successively occupied by "poor" families, the house became shabbier and shabbier. It was called "Johnny-Tumble-Down's House" because of its woeful condition.

Finally, the present owners and occupants, who had a deep feeling for the historic house and neglected property, took possession. In their hands, the house has been thoroughly repaired and restored and is once more an unblemished example of Delaware's domestic architecture in the Colonial period.

The Lewden house is also a visible reminder of a significant chapter of Delaware's social and economic history, an history that may have its lessons for posterity if posterity is wise enough to heed. Just at the north side of the Christiana Bridge, and but a stone's throw from the Lewden house is an Historical Marker. It reads:

LAFAYETTE

> General Lafayette enroute to Virginia, to command expedition against Benedict Arnold, landed 1500 troops here, with cannon, stores, and ammunition, March 2, 1781. Council of Maryland issued warrant to impress carriages, teams and drivers for his use at Christiana Bridge and vessels, hands, etc., at Head of Elk.

READ HOUSE

Near the bridge in Christiana

Hard by the Bridge at Christiana is an empty old brick house so thickly covered by vines that it is well nigh impossible to distinguish any individual characteristics, save that the original structure seems to have been enlarged by an early addition. This was the first Delaware home of George Read, the "Signer."

He was the son of John Read, son of a well-to-do English family resident in Dublin. Born in 1688, John Read migrated to Maryland and became a planter in Cecil County. When well past forty, he married Mary Howell, daughter of a prosperous planter in the Welsh Tract of Delaware, twenty-three years his junior.

George Read, the eldest child of this union, was born in Cecil County in 1733. Soon afterwards the

Reads removed to New Castle County and established themselves at Christiana. In his *Life and Correspondence of George Read*, his grandson, W. T. Read, says the Christiana plantation was a farm:

> "of one hundred and eighty acres, with a spacious brick house, and barn, and other buildings and conveniences adjacent to Christiana Bridge, with a storehouse and wharf used as a landing, from which an extensive trade was long carried on with Philadelphia and other places."

At an early age George Read was sent to the Reverend Francis Allison's school at New London. Charles Thomson, destined to become Secretary to the Continental Congress, was a fellow-pupil. George seems to have been a diligent student. Years afterward, his sister, Mrs. Gunning Bedford, related that "when his candle was taken from him at bedtime, he studied his grammar-lesson by fire-light."

At fifteen he was taken from school and put to study law in Philadelphia in the office of John Moland, one of the chief legal celebrities of the day. There young Read formed a life-long friendship with John Dickinson, who also was being trained in the law by Mr. Moland.

Admitted to the Bar in June, 1753, George Read settled himself in New Castle early in 1754 and commenced the practice of law. In 1763 he succeeded John Ross as District-Attorney for the "Three Lower Counties on Delaware." Also, in 1763 he married the daughter of the Reverend George Ross, Rector of Immanuel Church.

In October, 1765, he took his seat in the General Assembly of Delaware as a member from New Castle County. In 1769 he notes that his mother at Christiana opposes Gunning Bedford's suit for the hand of his sister Polly. George and Mrs. Read favoured the match and Polly Read and Gunning Bedford were soon afterwards married at the Reads' house in New Castle.

On August 1, 1774, at a meeting of the Delaware Assembly in New Castle, along with Caesar Rodney and Thomas McKean, George Read was chosen a Delegate to the General Congress to meet in Philadelphia September 5, 1774. George Read's record in the Continental Congress and afterwards is too well known to call for notice in this place. It is, however, pertinent to say something about his house in New Castle.

It was on the east side of the Strand, close to the water's edge, and commanded a fine view up and down the river. W. T. Read says his grandfather's house:

> "was an old-fashioned brick structure, looking very comfortable, but with no pretensions to elegance. [A characteristic attitude towards Georgian architecture in 1870!] It contained a spacious hall, on one side of which was a large parlour or drawingroom, on the other Mr. Read's office, behind it the dining-room of sufficient size, and in its rear a large kitchen. . . . The garden was kept with great care, for Mrs. Read had both fondness and taste for horticulture, and was proud of her profusion of flowers. . . . Here Mr. Read resided for many years in the style of the colonial gentry" and "maintained a state and etiquette which have long disappeared."

Mrs. Read survived her husband four years and continued to live there until her death in 1802. This house was burned in the disastrous fire of 1824, and its ruins were afterwards removed. Not a trace of it is left.

Inscription on George Read's gravestone in
Immanuel Churchyard
Born September 18th, 1734
Died September 21st, 1798
Member of the Congress of the Revolution, the Convention that framed the Constitution of
the United States, and of the first Senate under it;
Judge of Admiralty,
President and Chief Justice of Delaware
and
a Signer of the Declaration of Independence

SPRINGER HOUSE

On Old Baltimore Road opposite right-angle junction with State Route 7 to Hockessin

Stanton, one of the oldest villages in Mill Creek Hundred, had grist mills and saw mills in the latter part of the seventeenth century. It is on the old road to Baltimore and the South, and about three miles north of Christiana and the head of navigation on the Christina River.

The once reposeful air of the old village has vanished before the invasion of ultra modern house-building developments and the obliteration of the old lines of communication by straightened concrete highways and by-passes. It is becoming almost as puzzling to trace the course of the old roads in northern Delaware as it is to follow the exact lines of the old Roman roads in modern England.

The Springer house stands at the southeast corner of the Old Baltimore Road (a prolongation of Maryland Avenue in Wilmington) and the junction with the road coming in at a right angle (Route 7) from Hockessin. It is a striking reminder of Stanton's aspect as it once was. It is a two-storey-and-attic dwelling of five-bay width and two-room depth, and is built of the native dark grey stone, locally described as "Brandywine Granite." The rubble masonry of admirable quality bears witness to the preference for stone as a building material in that part of New Castle County. Built after the middle of the eighteenth century, it typifies the Quaker insistence upon exterior plainness and might be cited as a good example of "Quaker Georgian." Stanton was largely a Quaker community when the house was built and the Stanton Meeting House was nearby on the opposite side of the Old Baltimore Road.

Nothing could be plainer or more forthright than the exterior of the Springer house. The only visible concession to architectural amenity is the simple moulding beneath the plain, and utilitarian box cornice. The portico and penthouse are recent additions to the front. It is worth noting that the stone masons observed sound local precedent by creating quoins at the corners, using well-selected large blocks for the purpose. The interior has been so mauled, altered and generally maltreated that only by a vigorous exercise of imagination can one think of it as ever having had any affinity with Georgian symmetrical arrangement.

About 1797 Peter Springer was keeping a tavern in the house, it is said, and he doubtless did a prosperous business. Being directly on the main road to the South, there were the comings and goings of a constant succession of travellers. But besides this steady traffic north and south, there were the many waggoners driving their heavy-laden wains to Christiana and Newport. It was the hey-day of the shipping business on the Christina River, and from both Christiana and Newport great quantities of grain and flour, carted from "up-country," were shipped by shallop to Wilmington or Philadelphia or more distant ports.

COOCH HOUSE

On road from Christiana to Elkton, near Iron Hill

The Cooch house, at Cooch's Bridge over the Christina River, was built there because of an earlier grist mill and saw mill established at this spot about 1702 by one of the Welsh colonists in Pencader Hundred. In 1746 Thomas Cooch came from England to settle in the Welsh Tract at the foot of Iron Hill. His land holdings were extensive, a sizable acreage still remains attached to the house Thomas Cooch built beside the Christina in 1760.

As an important feature of his estate, Thomas Cooch conducted the mill profitably until it was burned by the British in 1777. The mill was then rebuilt on another site.

In August, 1777, when the British Army landed at the Head of Elk, it was apparently Howe's intention to march to Philadelphia through Stanton, Newport and Wilmington. The road over Cooch's Bridge through Christiana was the most direct and feasible route from the Head of Elk to his objective. Washington, sensing Howe's purpose and hoping to delay the British advance until he himself could gain a battle-ground more favourable to his now scattered and inferior forces, decided to attack at Cooch's Bridge.



Cooch House at Cooch's Bridge. View of southeast front.



John England House. Southwest front. Larger part. at left. was built 1747; lower part, at right, is the house occupied by John England, *circa* 1726.

Cooch's house and the bridge directly in front of it became the focal point of Washington's action to delay Howe's advance at the least cost to the Continental Army. With terrain unfavourable for an engagement and the inevitable bottleneck caused by the narrow bridge of the Christina, a handful of attackers could cause endless confusion.

On September 3, 1777, the Battle of Cooch's Bridge was fought. That same day General Washington wrote to the President of Congress:

> "This morning the enemy came out with considerable force and three pieces of artillery against our light corps, and after some pretty smart skirmishing, obliged them to retreat, being far superior in numbers. They advanced about two miles this side of Iron Hill, and then withdrew to that place. Our parties now lay at White Clay Creek, except the advanced pickets which are at Christiana Bridge."

Although in actual fighting the Battle of Cooch's Bridge was little more than a skirmish, it was noteworthy for two things: It was the only Revolutionary Battle on Delaware soil, and it was the first time the American flag was in battle.

The *Journals of Congress* for June 14, 1777, say:

> "*Resolved*, That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The flag General Washington displayed at Cambridge, January 2, 1776, had the thirteen red and white stripes, but the canton showed the combined crosses of St. George and St. Andrew on a blue field. The Congressional Flag, officially declared only a few months before the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, was borne in the first armed engagement since the action of Congress.

At the approach of the British Army, Thomas Cooch, who was then nearing eighty years of age, and his family took refuge in Pennsylvania. Lord Cornwallis, after burning the mill, made the Cooch house his headquarters.

Before leaving, Thomas Cooch had buried his silver in the orchard. When he returned after the departure of his unwelcome guests, he found the chest with the silver safe and sound. That was pleasant. What was not so pleasant was to find the floor of the best room battered and scarred by horses' hooves.

Thomas Cooch was highly esteemed in the community. He was both a Justice of the Peace and a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The house that he built in 1760 faces east and originally was a two-storey-and-attic, three-bay brick structure on a gentle rise above the Christina, having a one-storey-and-attic wing extending westward at the back.

In the course of its two hundred years the dwelling has undergone many radical changes. Just after the War Between the States, a third storey was added to the main part of the house, a second storey was added to the wing, and the brick walls were stuccoed. What is now the side verandah was added about the same time and the columns were cut from old ship masts. The present front verandah is the work of an itinerant carpenter of nearly the same date.

Inside, some of the original woodwork remains, but there have been so many Victorian alterations, both indoors and outside, that the eighteenth-century character of the original building is lost.

Beside the gateway a conspicuous monument reminds the passerby that this spot is the site of the only military fight of the Revolution on Delaware Soil. Around the base of the boulder that forms the body of the monument are four cannon. The bronze tablet affixed to the boulder reads:

> "American Light Infantry and Cavalry under General William Maxwell encountered advance Guard of British and Hessian Troops under Generals Howe, Cornwallis, and Knyphausen in this Vicinity, September 3, 1777. American Troops were Expert Marksmen chosen by General Washington from the several Brigades of his Army then encamped near Wilmington.
>
> Only Battle of Revolution on Delaware Soil and claimed to have been the first in which the Stars and Stripes were carried."

JOHN ENGLAND HOUSE

Near Newark

In 1723 John England came from Staffordshire to manage the Principio Furnace, in Cecil County, Maryland, in the ownership of which it is said he had an interest. The Principio Forge, established in 1718 at the head of the Chesapeake, was not far from Iron Hill, just a little to the southwest of Newark. Although the furnace depended mainly on bog ore, it occasionally drew its supply from Iron Hill. The known presence of iron in that neighbourhood created wide interest and inspired a number of attempts at development.

Sir William Keith, while he was Governour, with characteristic optimism about the future of the iron industry, acquired considerable acreage along the Christina and on White Clay Creek. The records show that he bought 1160 acres in Pencader, Mill Creek and Christiana Hundreds. He is said also to have built a small furnace on the Christina about 1722, getting his ore from Iron Hill. This venture came to an abrupt end with his removal from office and his following clandestine flight to England.

At the disposal of Keith's holdings, John England bought a tract on the White Clay Creek, perhaps in hope of finding ore on the property. Whether the older part of the house was already there or whether John England himself built it is uncertain. Within the next few years he built a grist mill at the foot of the slope on which the house stands.

John England died in 1734 and his brother Joseph came down from Pennsylvania, took over the property and ran the mill. In 1741, John England's legal heirs, his two sons in England, conveyed the 400-acre estate to their uncle Joseph. Joseph added the larger part of the house in 1747, as indicated by the date-stone in the gable of the north end. He was an active member of the West Nottingham Meeting and, like most grist mill owners of the period, was a person of weight in his community. His grandson, the third Joseph England, was active in New Castle County affairs and served in the Legislature from 1800 to 1828; he died while a member of the State Senate in 1828. The England family kept possession of the place until 1839. Since then members of the Eastburn family have occupied the house.

The mill, widely known as "England's Mill" or as "The Old Red Mill", was a valuable asset. For more than two centuries it ground a great quantity of fine flour for export from the grain grown in the country round about. Latterly its business became reduced to grinding feed for the local trade. The mill seems to have been the feature that inspired most of the neighbourhood regard for the place.

In the course of more than two hundred and thirty-odd years the house has undergone much alteration both inside and out. At the far end of the older part, on its high stone foundation, required by the sharp slope, there was once a very large Dutch oven, also built up on a high foundation. Though the oven was removed long ago, the traces on the stone and brick exterior masonry plainly indicate its shape and dimensions.

Within, the fireplace to which it was joined is of exceptional breadth and extends across practically the whole end of the building. At some of the old grist mills there were outdoor bake-ovens where the millers baked ships' bread, for which there was a good market in the days of sailing ships, when mills along the Christina and Brandywine exported great quantities of flour and grain. From the size of the fireplace, and of the erstwhile Dutch oven attached to it, one wonders whether the millers at England's Mill ever added the baking of ships' bread to their labours.

The old kitchen, with its enormous fireplace, bears other marks of its early date in battened "Dutch" half-doors, hardware of the period, and a few remnants of panelling in the manner of the 1720's.

By 1747, prosperity enabled Joseph England to make the large addition with its handsome brickwork laid in Flemish-bond with glazed black headers. The uninterrupted penthouse extended across the front, the end, and the rear of the house. The present small entrance portico, with columns and pediment, and the large screened porch at the gable end, mark fairly recent alterations. Indoors, many changes and modernisations have taken place, but some of the original fine woodwork remains.

The John England house still faithfully represents eighteenth-century building ideals and manner of life. For that, if for no other reason, it would merit high esteem. But, over and above that, it is the visible

reminder of a worthy man who diligently fostered the beginnings of Delaware's industrial life. Also, in lesser degree, it recalls the memory of Sir William Keith, Governour of the "Three Lower Counties" as well as of the Province of Pennsylvania, some of whose dreams of development, had they ever been pursued to their logical fruition, might have been of profit both to himself and to his contemporaries.

CHESTNUT HILL FARM

On Polly Drummond Hill Road, north of State Route 2

Just above the White Clay Creek Presbyterian Church and its surrounding burying-ground, Chestnut Hill Farm is on the road winding up to Polly Drummond Hill. Like many others in Mill Creek Hundred, the house is built of grey fieldstone. Stone was the most favoured building material in Mill Creek Hundred and, at one time, there were more stone houses there than dwellings built of brick or of any other material.

Chestnut Hill farmhouse, as it stands to-day, embodies structures of three different dates, along with a kitchen wing of comparatively recent construction. The oldest, and northernmost, portion was built early in the eighteenth century or, quite possibly, in the latter part of the seventeenth.

It was a one-storey-and-attic dwelling of the simplest type, one large room with a great fireplace, and one or two bedrooms in the attic above it. It was a late Mediaeval type that the earliest colonists brought with them from England. It was a type that called for no architect nor experienced master-builder. It was the kind of thing the colonists could build for themselves and manage to live in until they could get their farms really going and then build more commodious quarters.

There are numerous examples of it scattered through Chester and Delaware Counties and Bucks in Pennsylvania. Occasionally a rudimentary dwelling of this sort has remained just as it was when first built. More usually it has become a wing to a later-built and larger structure.

An admirable instance of it is the frame seventeenth-century part of the Gilpin house, La Fayette Headquarters, at Chadd's Ford. The half-timber and weatherboarded original became a wing of the more commodious stone additions.

At Chestnut Hill Farm, the oldest part of the house has undergone sundry alterations through the years, but its clearly traceable pristine form is very close to the "Resurrection Manor plan" that came up from Maryland through Sussex and Kent. Under the urge of imperative necessity, it embodied a natural pioneering instinct to reproduce in a new land what the colonists knew at home in England as the simplest and easiest-built type of small farm dwelling, the labourer's cottage. Not a few of these seventeenth-century labourers' cottages are still in use in England.

The middle part of Chestnut Hill farmhouse, built about the middle of the eighteenth century, was the logical outgrowth from the first part and afforded more generous living accommodations. But it was built, and very substantially, according to local rustic precedent.

By the time the southernmost part of the house was built, about the beginning of the nineteenth century, Georgian principles of symmetrical arrangement had won general acceptance. This part is a two-storey-and-attic, five-bay structure with central hall and stair, and one room deep. It is an agreeable and seemly Georgian creation of restrained design, but with enough of the customary architectural graces to ensure an atmosphere of genial comfort. The genesis of Chestnut Hill farmhouse, through more than two centuries, affords a valuable note to the story of the cultural life of New Castle County.

Chestnut Hill Farm was the home of Andrew Gray, the father of Andrew Caldwell Gray and grandfather of George Gray, whose public records are too well known to need present comment. Born in Kent County, Delaware, as a young man Andrew Gray lived there in the landed estates inherited from his maternal grandfather, Andrew Caldwell. He married Rebecca Rodgers, the sister of Commodores John and George Rodgers. In 1808 he left Kent County and came to live at Chestnut Hill Farm. Whether he built the Georgian part of the house, or whether it was already standing when he came, it is not quite certain, but it seems likely that he was the builder.



Chestnut Hill Farm, near Newark. The two back buildings at the right are the original house and addition as they appeared before restoration in 1934.



Chestnut Hill Farm, looking at the southwest front and gable end of the part built *circa* 1800.

In 1816, 1820, 1823 and 1825 he was a member of the State General Assembly from New Castle County and, in 1818, he was a State Senator for New Castle County. But political and legislative activities were by no means his ruling interests. He was far more congenially concerned with scholarly and philosophical pursuits. He was a capable classicist and spent much time with his books, in study and in writing. After his death, Chestnut Hill Farm passed through the vicissitudes of different ownerships and occupancies. The house finally fell into a sorry plight of disrepair, as may be seen by the illustration, from a picture taken in 1934.

The present owner and occupant is the Honorable Hugh M. Morris, sometime United States District Judge for the U. S. District of Delaware (1919-1934). In 1934, when he came to live at Chestnut Hill Farm, he repaired all the damage of preceding years, and has since then maintained the house in a condition befitting its history as a significant landmark.

WELSH TRACT BAPTIST MEETING

State Route 2 to crossroad leading to Iron Hill, about 6 miles from Newark

In Pencader Hundred at the foot of Iron Hill, near Cooch's Bridge, is the Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting. The original log meeting-house was built in 1706. The present brick structure was built in 1746.

Standing on a rise above the Christina, the Meeting is a small one-storey building with a jerkin-head roof, the jerkin-head slants truncating the gable at each end, a feature not common in the roof architecture of the old Colonies. The front of the Meeting facing the road (pierced by two doorways) is stuccoed and painted white. In one of the side walls is a bricked-up hole, made by a British cannon ball fired at the Continental soldiers retreating from the Battle of Cooch's Bridge. The severely plain interior has been re-seated with nineteenth-century pews.

Tradition has it that the bricks were brought from England to New Castle and transported thence on muleback. It is a picturesque story but, in this connection, it must be borne in mind that in 1746 excellent bricks were made in the immediate neighbourhood; shipping space was much too valuable for cargoes of manufactured goods to leave room for bricks, even as ballast; and that the cost of shipment plus the cost of carriage by muleback from New Castle would have been prohibitive.

A low whitewashed stone wall surrounds the burial ground, in the centre of which the Meeting stands. Great oaks, centuries old, cast their shade about the place. Across the road from the Meeting are the old whitewashed stone cottage of the sexton, and the carriage-sheds of a bygone day in which the congregation once left their horses and carriages during service time, now, their automobiles.

The name "Pencader," borne by the Hundred in which the Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting stands, means a very high point of land and seems to have been given with reference to the elevation of nearby Iron Hill. The Welsh settlers who peopled the Welsh Tract came chiefly from Pembrokeshire and Caermarthenshire and built their homes on the 3000 acres granted them by William Penn, October 15, 1701. Coming from the iron-working part of South Wales, as most of them did, it is said they were attracted by the rich supply of ore long known to exist in the beds of Iron Hill.

Before leaving Wales in 1701, they organised their congregation and came over with the Reverend Thomas Griffith as their minister. For a time after their arrival in America they lived on the Welsh Barony in Pennsylvania. They came into Delaware in 1703. On coming into the Three Lower Counties they at once established their farmsteads on the tract already surveyed to them, "behind the town of New Castle, northward and southward, beginning to the westward seven miles from New Castle and extending upward and downward as there should be room by regular straight lines as near as may be."

The Welsh people of the Tract contributed a stable and valuable element to Delaware's population. As hardy and industrious pioneers they prospered and were easily assimilated in the social composition of their day. Their numerous descendants are now to be found in every part of the State. At the Welsh Tract



Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting, Pencader Hundred, built 1746.



Old College, University of Delaware, Newark.

Baptist Meeting the preaching continued to be in Welsh until about 1800. To the congregation there can be traced the foundation of nearly all other Baptist organisations in the State.

OLD COLLEGE

Main Street, Newark

Old College, on Main Street in Newark, faces south overlooking the campus, and is surrounded by noble old lime (linden) trees. Built in 1834, with funds raised by a lottery, for half a century it was the only college building and, for a time, served for academic as well as collegiate instruction. It is now used chiefly as a social centre for the students and faculty of the University of Delaware.

In September, 1834, it opened its doors as Newark College, with the Reverend Eliphalet Wheeler Gilbert, D.D. as President. In 1843 the name was changed to Delaware College and so remained until it became the University of Delaware. The building is now known simply as Old College.

When Old College was first built, it was a plain three-storey cruciform brick structure, with a Greek temple portico in front of the two upper storeys, the podium accounting for the height of the lower storey. It was one of the important early Greek-Revival public buildings in America. Judging from old pictures, it presented a dignified and pleasing appearance consistent in scale and in the character of its several parts with the purpose for which it was intended.

In 1902, north and south wings were added. They had temple fronts corresponding with the design of the original main front. At that time the portico friezes were perfectly plain and the columns were round cylinder-like supports, stuccoed.

In 1917, when the interior was completely renovated, the Victorian bell-cot atop the central portico was removed, the friezes were correctly embellished with triglyphs, and fluted Doric columns replaced the unprepossessing cylinders. A broad granite ramp, in two well-calculated flights of steps, ascends from the ground level to the central portico.

PURNELL HALL

Main Street, east of Old College, Newark

Purnell Hall, on Main Street east of Old College, is so called for Dr. William H. Purnell, President of Delaware College from 1870 to 1885. It is now the property of the University of Delaware and is used for several of the University's executive offices.

At one time it was used as a fraternity house, then as a general library, and after that it housed the departments of English and History. The much later wing with the Greek-Revival portico, on the east side of the house, was a dentist's office.

Purnell Hall was once known as the John Watson Evans house from a former occupant. John Watson Evans was a member of the State Legislature in the first half of the nineteenth century. The house was built some time during the "20's" or early "30's".

A two-storey-and-attic brick structure of three-bay width, it is two rooms deep, with a two-storey brick wing at the rear. The house is of generous width and amplitude of scale and is an exceptionally fine example of the simplified Regency or Federal manner.

The brickwork is laid in Flemish-bond. The carefully calculated arch of the doorway is worth noting. At the ends of the straight lintols are square blocks with circles, a device, it should be remembered, belonging to the Regency or Federal manner and frequently employed long before the domestic-Greek-Revivalists appropriated it. The doorway, with its narrow side-lights and its graceful traceried fanlight, is well-studied and exceptionally handsome. The design of the dormer-tops is unusual and highly pleasing.



Purnell Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, view from southwest front.



Elliott Hall, University of Delaware, southwest front view.

ELLIOTT HALL

Main Street, Newark

Elliott Hall, on Main Street in Newark just east of Purnell Hall, is also used by the University of Delaware as part of its property. It is called Elliott Hall for former owners and occupants. It is one of the oldest houses in Newark. From early times members of the Elliott family, sprung of English and Swedish stock, were active in the life of New Castle County. They gave a good account of themselves in both the Revolutionary War and in the War of 1812, and were esteemed by their contemporaries.

Elliott Hall was built about 1770, perhaps a little earlier. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick structure of four bays in width and is two rooms deep. The two-bay addition at the east end, built of different-hued brick, is of recent construction. The portico at the house-door is a product of nineteenth-century domestic Greek-Revivalists.

The sturdy brickwork of the walls is laid in Flemish-bond. A belt course across the front, between the ground floor and the upper storey, is of a type much favoured in Delaware, three bricks wide, with the central course recessed.

The cornice, carried across the end walls in the manner of a penthouse, suggests the nearness of Chester County in Pennsylvania, where the practice is common amongst the old stone farmhouses of the Welsh colonists, not only in Chester but in the neighbouring Pennsylvania counties also, whose architectural precedent derived from the stone *hendres* of rural Wales (*cf* Pencoyd, at Bala, and other early houses in the Welsh Barony).

ASHLAND MILLS

On hill above Red Clay Creek

In the rolling hill country of northern New Castle County, the Red Clay Creek winds about between the feet of sharp slopes that are sometimes almost precipitous. At Ashland, on a knoll near the top of one of these steep rises, stands a brick house built by the Greggs in the fore part of the eighteenth century.

In 1684, under the Penn régime, the Manor of Staning was set off as a portion for Penn's son and daughter, William Penn, Jr., and Letitia. This Manor of Staning was partly in Pennsylvania and partly in New Castle County. James Logan, as Penn's representative, was empowered to grant warrants to purchasers of land in the Manor and, on August 17, 1702, he deeded the tract on which the house stands to John Gregg for £40. 0. 0.

On April 10, 1730, John Gregg and Elizabeth, his wife, for "love and affection and five shillings" deeded the property to William Gregg, their son. The Greggs had a grist mill and a stone mill house, near it, at the bottom of the hill on the Red Clay Creek. These were standing as early as 1715. In 1737 the brick house on the hill was built by "William and M. Gregg."

In the west gable, between two small attic windows, is a terra cotta panel with a pediment top and flanked by fluted pilasters. On the field of the panel are the raised letters W^{G}M (the initials of the builder and his wife) displayed in the customary way, the first letter of the husband's Christian name, at the left; the first letter of the wife's Christian name, at the right; and the first letter of the couple's surname, at a higher level, in the middle. Beneath the letters is the date, 1 7 3 7.

The punctilious manner in which the original ownership and date are visibly recorded is indicative of the thought and care bestowed on the whole structure. The brickwork is an exceptionally fine example of Flemish-bond masonry with black headers. The window openings, faced with rubbed brick, give a pleasant bit of colour contrast, derived from Queen Anne-Early-Georgian precedent. A single course of moulded or bevelled bricks tops the water-table.

That William Gregg was architecturally-conscious and appreciative is evident from the house he built. He was also abreast of his time in the current trend of thought and impulses, for his five-bay and central

hall dwelling was one of the first houses in northern Delaware to show the acceptance of Georgian principles.

With the small-paned transom above the central house-door, the segmental arches over the cellar windows in the high base, and the dimensions of the window penetrations, the flavour of the house is distinctly Early-Georgian.

The box cornice carried across the gable ends and the penthouse, at one time carried around all four walls, hark back to late seventeenth-century usage in England, a characteristic retained in many of the early stone houses in southeastern Pennsylvania. By no means the least arresting feature of the Gregg house is the stone portion at the rear of the main structure. There is no record of just when it was built, but it is unquestionably much older than the rest of the house.

As a one-storey-and-attic dwelling, the ground floor consisted of one large room with a great fireplace at one end, indicated by the position of the chimney. At one side of the fireplace a closed stair wound up to the bedroom, or bedrooms, in the attic. In other words, it followed the late Mediaeval precedent that served the early colonists in their first building ventures, a method instanced in many cases already referred to.

The large dormer is a modern addition. In its place there may, or may not, have been a small "shed-roof" dormer. Lines in the stone masonry of the fireplace end show plainly where the pitch of one roof slope has been altered to make an addition to accommodate a big Dutch oven. The Dutch oven was later removed, but the masonry shows where it was.

In the passage of years the Gregg house has lost its original woodwork and has undergone so many other changes and repairs, chiefly interior, that much of its pristine quality has been sadly obscured. Nevertheless, it still retains a definite charm. Structurally sound, it could be a substantial and rewarding base for thorough-going restoration. Completely restored, it would be not only an invaluable architectural document but also an eloquent index to the cultural life of a period highly significant in American history.



Ashland Mills. Built by William Gregg, 1737. The stone part at the rear is a much earlier building.

DUNLEITH

West of River Road between New Castle and Wilmington; surrounded by a modern housing development west of Eden Park and east of Swanwick, and stands back some distance from River Road

A large house designed in the "Italian Villa Style" by John Notman and built in 1847 for William H. Rogers. Demolished while this volume was being published.

GRANTHAM HOUSE

South of New Castle

Large brick house built about 1750. Measured before 1941 by Historic American Buildings Survey and documented.

THE BUTTONWOODS

South of New Castle

Farmhouse brick, with large and unusual barn. About middle of eighteenth century.

MONK BARNS

South of New Castle

Photographed and documented before 1941 by Historic American Buildings Survey. At that time property of Francis Janvier.

OLD EVES PLACE

Between New Castle and Wilmington on river front

At one time a prosperous farmstead. Now in the midst of the Lukens Steel Company property.

OLD TOWN HALL

Northwest corner Delaware and Second Streets, New Castle

A square three-storey brick building with hipped roof, square railed deck and cupola. Built in 1823. Arcade through middle of ground floor to connect with former market at rear.

OLD ARSENAL

On Green, between Delaware and Harmony Streets, New Castle

Long, narrow two-storey-and-attic brick structure, with cupola. Built by United States Government in 1809. Much altered and added to through the years. Has served various uses. Was a public schoolhouse from 1852 to 1930.

GEMMILL HOUSE

18 Third Street, New Castle

A three-storey-and-attic brick house, with shuttered doorway, built about 1801. Peter Crowding was the contractor who built it. Good interior woodwork.

GILPIN HOUSE

210 Delaware Street, New Castle

A two-storey-and-attic brick house; one of New Castle's oldest buildings. Was probably an inn from the beginning. Remodeling for shops has obliterated old arch through centre, leading to stables in rear. For many years the stopping place of judges and lawyers.

DELAWARE HOUSE

202 Delaware Street, New Castle

Once the residence and hotel of John Crow, prominent citizen during the Revolutionary period. Earliest inn-keeper not known, but in 1769 Robert France bought the place and freely entertained so many missionaries that he got into trouble with other inn-keepers.

OLD JEFFERSON HOTEL

Southeast corner, Delaware Street and the Strand, New Castle

Large three-storey-and-attic brick building painted white. Besides being a hotel, it was the office and centre of a general supply and shipping business in the early nineteenth century. The Great Fire of 1824 started on the northeast side of this building and swept up the river side of the Strand destroying all before it. The building is now turned into apartments.

OLD FARMERS' BANK

4, The Strand, New Castle

A square, flat-roofed two-storey brick building, with brownstone quoins and facings, built in 1845 on the "Burnt Lot," the former site of Col. John French's house, destroyed by fire in 1724. Bank building used as private dwelling since 1851.

AULL HOUSES

49, 51, 53 and 55, east side of Strand, New Castle

Survivors of the Great Fire of 1824. Number 49 and 51, built about 1750, are of frame construction with flush boarding. Numbers 53 and 55, built about 1775, are of brick, with a stone belt course. Architecturally of considerable interest.

IMMANUEL PARISH HOUSE

Southwest corner, Harmony Street and The Strand, New Castle

A brick three-storey-and-attic building, with a railed deck on peak of roof, built about 1801 by the contractor Peter Crowding. Intended for both a hotel and private dwelling. Used mostly as a dwelling until given to Immanuel Church.

SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL

West side of 2nd Street, north of Harmony Street, New Castle

Two-storey-and-attic brick building, with one-storey verandah on two sides. Now stuccoed and turned into apartments. Was popular as an inn in the early nineteenth century.

THE DEEMER HOUSE

Northwest corner 6th and South Streets, New Castle

A large Victorian house of brick, stuccoed; built in the early 1850's. Exhibits all the eccentric characteristics of the Victorian Era, carried out with precise and meticulous care.

STONUM

Southwest of New Castle, on river

Old farmhouse on tract of land called Stonum (Stoneham) southwest of New Castle that belonged to George Read, the Signer, before 1769.

GARRETT HOUSE

On hillside opposite snuff mill at Hockessin

Early nineteenth century incorporating a much earlier house, but the whole much altered and modernised.

BOYCE HOUSE

On State Route 7, on the bank of White Clay Creek, between Stanton and Christiana

Large two-storey-and-attic, five-bay brick house, with belt course and water table, built before 1775. Excellent Georgian brickwork. September 6, 1777, the American officers were ordered to meet there. In neglected condition. Historical Marker beside house.

TATNALL-BYRNES HOUSE

North side of Old Baltimore Road or Main Street of Stanton, opposite junction of road to Hockessin, at end of Old Mill Road (marked "Dead End")

Gambrel-roofed brick house, marked 1750 in brick headers on end wall. Original brick structure excellent, and some good woodwork remaining. Much altered, inside and outside, and enlarged with frame addition.

GALLOWAY HOUSE

West side of Johns Street, south of Market, in Newport

A little gambrel-roofed brick house, built about 1730. Now covered with an imitation-stone composition.

PARKIN-MYERS HOUSE

Southeast corner of Market and Johns Streets in Newport

Early-Georgian brick house, *c.* 1740. Penthouse removed; reft of fine panelling. Once an admirable structure; now in deplorable state.

NORWOOD

Corner Matthes and Maryland Avenues, Richardson Park, Wilmington

Large stuccoed three-storey house, with flat roof. Built *c.* 1856-1860. Simplified and conservative "Italian Villa" inspiration.

ROCKWELL

407 Winston Avenue, Richardson Park, Wilmington

Five-bay, two-storey-and-attic house with central hall; two rooms deep. Built *c.* 1813. Good curved-top dormers.

WOODSTOCK

102 Middleboro Road, Richardson Park, Wilmington

Three-bay, two-storey-and-attic stone house, with two-bay wing on axis with main body. In good condition. Railed deck on roof. Wing probably before middle of eighteenth century.

DR. DAVID STEWART HOUSE

In Port Penn, on south side of Presbyterian Church

A substantial brick house built about 1750, or perhaps a little earlier. Home of seven successive Doctors David Stewart. Excellent brickwork in Flemish-bond with black headers. Said to have been hit by cannon-ball from British man-of-war during invasion of river in 1813.

BUCK or CARSON'S TAVERN

At Summit Bridge on State Route 896, now on Government Canal Reservation. Historical Marker before house

Two-storey-and-attic, five-bay brick house with central hall. Good arched dormer windows. Washington stopped there several times in travelling from Head of Elk to New Castle. Baron Knyphausen made the tavern his headquarters, September 2, 1777.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

Marshallton

Present stone church (stuccoed), built in 1820, stands in large stone-walled churchyard. Box pews on ground floor, unpainted pews in gallery. First church building, a wooden structure, built in 1717 on the ten acres given by James Robinson.

JOHN STALCOP LOG HOUSE

At Price's Corner, on east side of State Route 2

Built in latter part of seventeenth century. Much mutilated and in bad condition. Given to the Delaware State Museum by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Fenimore, as a memorial to his mother who saved it from destruction. Re-erected at Fort Christina Monument, where the log house was first introduced into North America by the Swedes who settled there in 1638.

FLEMING'S LANDING

Fleming house, two-storey-and-attic, built *c.* 1830. By bank of Duck Creek. In good condition.

LACKFORD HALL

West side of U.S. Route 13, on high land overlooking Drawyers Creek, on the south

Late eighteenth-century two-storey-and-attic, five-bay Georgian brick house, added to an earlier brick dwelling based on the "Resurrection Manor plan." The Georgian later part of the house has particularly good woodwork and panelling.

NEW CASTLE AND WILMINGTON



Amstel House, Fourth and Delaware Streets, New Castle.



Parlour of the Amstel House, New Castle.

AMSTEL HOUSE

N.W. Corner, 4th and Delaware Streets, New Castle

The name Amstel House, given to commemorate the period when the Dutch held New Castle and called it New Amstel, was first used after restoration during the ownership and occupancy of Professor Henry Hanby Hay. The site was patented to Jan Roeloff de Haes who came to New Castle in Peter Stuyvesant's time. Either Jan de Haes or his son, Roeloff de Haes II, grandson of Jan Roeloff, could have built the older brick part of the house, now the service wing, well before the end of the seventeenth century. From a survey made when de Haes sold the property to Christopher Stanley, we know the house was there in 1707.

In 1738, after several sales in quick succession, the property came into possession of Dr. John Finney. He it was who built the later and larger part of the house with its five-bay gabled facade fronting on 4th Street. The coved cornice, the heavy divisions of the fanlight above the house-door, the dimensions of the windows and of the window-panes and the segmental arches in the brickwork above the windows, amongst the external items, and, within doors, the arched fireplaces and the details of the admirable panelling and other woodwork, notably the wooden cornices, are all characteristic of the robust first half of the eighteenth century.

Dr. Finney lived in Amstel House until his death in 1774. Dr. Finney's son John leased the house to Nicholas Van Dyke the Elder, the Governor. Senator Van Dyke was born in this house. The event for which Amstel House is always chiefly remembered is the wedding of Governor Van Dyke's daughter Ann to Kensey Johns, Sr.

The ceremony took place in what is now called the "music room" to the right of the door on entering, on April 30th, 1784. General Washington was an honoured guest on this joyous occasion. The General is said to have arrived too late for the marriage-service, but he was there for the reception and the following banquet. Standing on the hearthstone, he kissed the young bride. And he kissed all the pretty girls as well, "as was his wont" wrote Chief-Justice James Booth.

After the death of Governor Van Dyke in 1789, his daughter Ann (Johns) leased the property until the Kensey Johns house at 3rd and Delaware Streets was ready for occupancy. About the middle of the nineteenth century Amstel House was given up to tenants, one of whom kept a tailor shop, for the accommodations of which some alterations were made. Subsequently, however, thorough restoration completely obliterated all trace of previous changes which, fortunately, were never serious.

Following Professor Hay's residence in Amstel House the New Castle Historical Society acquired the property and since 1929 has maintained it as a historical museum. The collections housed there are of much interest and illustrative of the bygone social life of northern Delaware.

SENATOR VAN DYKE HOUSE

400 Delaware Street, New Castle

Nicholas Van Dyke, Jr., the Senator, like many another cultivated gentleman of his day, had a discriminating taste in matters architectural. Some knowledge of architecture, indeed, was deemed an essential part of a gentleman's education. Mount Vernon and Kenmore and Woodlawn would never have been what they are if General Washington had not possessed a very keen architectural sense. Nor would many other fine eighteenth-century houses in America have been the deservedly-prized treasures of the present day had not their first owners been alert to the value of architectural amenity and determined to secure it.

Senator Van Dyke possessed not only the taste for architecture but also the creative urge to translate his conceptions into tangible form. He was quite able, with the co-operation of a capable master-builder, to design and carry through to completion a house that would do credit to any neighbourhood in which it might stand. Thanks to Senator Van Dyke's strong building impulse, New Castle's rich architectural heritage today counts more than one worthy evidence of his genius.



Senator Van Dyke House, Fourth and Delaware Streets, New Castle.



Kensey Johns Van Dyke House, Third and Delaware Streets, New Castle.

His first creation was the house he built for himself in 1799, at the southwest corner of Delaware and Fourth Streets, opposite Amstel House, his boyhood home. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick structure of five bays, with central hall, the three middle bays set slightly forward to make a pavilion, which is topped by a pediment of the same width. The bricks are laid in Flemish-bond. In the lintols above the windows, the joints between the gauged and rubbed bricks converge toward the bases of the marble key blocks.

The house is in sharp contrast with Amstel House just across the street. Its sophistication struck a fresh note in the architecture of New Castle. The pavilion as a subtle emphasis in the facade of a dwelling house had not hitherto appeared locally, nor had lintols of rubbed and gauged brick. When he designed his house, Nicholas Van Dyke well knew that the central pavilion was an effective feature in the fronts of two public buildings in Delaware, the Academy in New Castle and the Town Hall in Wilmington. He was quite aware that Dr. Thornton had used it with happy effect in the Philadelphia building he had designed in 1790 for the Library Company. No doubt, too, he realised that the central pavilion had figured in the designs of such Pennsylvania country-houses as Mount Pleasant, Cliveden, The Woodlands, The Highlands and China Hall.

At the same time, it required daring to employ the central pavilion as a conspicuous feature for a town house. Amidst other neighbouring houses with plain fronts, this device could look clumsy and pretentious unless used with reserve and great restraint. Nicholas Van Dyke, probably with his eyes open, for he was a student of architectural niceties, took the risk. His descretion and good judgement contributed to New Castle's domestic architecture a structure marked by quiet dignity and an elegant distinction.

As one would expect after closely studying the exterior, dignity of dimensions and unostentatious elegance characterise the interior. The central hall is arched mid-way; the stair ascends beyond the arch. The doors to the rooms on each side of the hall are of mahogany. To the left, on entering the house, are the large front and back parlours. To the right is a large dining-room. Back of the dining-room are the kitchens. From the smaller back kitchen, steps go down to a brick milk house, on a lower level, attached to the west side of the main house.

With panelling no longer in fashion, structural decorative interest centres on the marble-faced fireplaces with their mantels. The wooden mantels are distinguished not only by their just proportions and well-studied mouldings but also especially by their beautiful decoration in French putty figures. These graceful Classic figures and their subsidiary settings may not, perhaps, be quite so elaborate as those on the mantels in the Read House, or those that were on the mantels in China Hall, at Croydon, in Bucks, but their skillful execution is equally fine. The delicate details of all the woodwork, as well as the French putty ornamentation of the mantels, show that Senator Van Dyke knew and appreciated these contemporary features and employed them without falling into Adamesque exuberance.

Through the passing years the Senator Van Dyke house has suffered. At some time during the nineteenth century a bow-window was tacked on to the east side of the ground floor. Various interior changes and adjustments have been made so as to divide all available space into several apartments. At the rear, there have been additions. It is fortunate that no drastic structural changes have taken place.

Nicholas Van Dyke, Jr., was born December 20, 1770. He was graduated from Princeton in 1788. Responsibility as head of the family, when he was not yet twenty years old, came to him in 1789, at the death of his father, Governor Van Dyke. In 1791, when he was twenty-one, he was admitted to the Delaware Bar, after reading law under his brother-in-law, Kensey Johns, Sr. In 1799, when he was twenty-nine, he designed and built his house.

As a courteous and broadly-educated gentleman; as a public-spirited citizen, continuously devoted to the interests and responsibilities of New Castle; and as a conscientious servant of both State and Nation, from 1809 to the end of his life, the record of Senator Nicholas Van Dyke is so well known that further comment in this place would be superfluous.

It is not amiss, however, to add that William T. Read, in his *Life and Correspondence of George Read,* noted that Senator Van Dyke was remarkable "for his taste in architecture, and his fondness for indulging it, having erected two large and fine houses in New Castle, and two in the vicinity . . . his ample fortune enabling him to gratify this taste, at once elegant and useful."

KENSEY JOHNS VAN DYKE HOUSE

300 Delaware Street, New Castle

In 1820, Senator Nicholas Van Dyke built this house on Delaware Street for his son, Kensey Johns Van Dyke. Its distinctive characteristics at once give it high rank in New Castle's architectural roster. But quite apart from all other things to be reckoned, the design reveals Senator Van Dyke's sympathetic grasp of the changed architectural atmosphere since he had designed his own house two decades earlier. This change needs a little explanation because it affected the design of many other houses built in the early years of the nineteenth century.

Between 1799 and 1820 there had been a decided shift of outlook in the field of both public and domestic architectural expression. The change had come several years earlier in England, but by 1820 it was fully established on both sides of the Atlantic. British taste had been surfeited by the over-elaboration and frivolities of the Neo-Classic school. It had become like getting a superbly-iced birthday cake when one really wanted roast beef. The office of the Brothers Adam was accused of having degenerated into a mere decorators' establishment. Conditions were ripe for a revolt.

That revolt was sparked by Henry Holland. His first house in the new manner, Southhill, in Bedfordshire, was finished in 1795. The movement was taken up by Nash, who produced Regent Street, Soane and Wyatt, and thus was born the Graeco-Roman or Regency style. It retained the substance of the sound Roman and Greek elements incorporated in Georgian architecture but dispensed with the excesses committed by the purveyors to mere novelty.

In America, the Regency or Federal manner was ably interpreted by such men as Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Robert Mills and Thomas Bulfinch; also by Dr. William Thornton in some of his creations, notably Tudor Place, in George-town. Examples of excessive Neo-Classic design are rare in America. Delaware escaped entirely; jumped from a sound Georgian manner into the Regency or Federal mode, often in a simplified form. So many houses built in this simplified Regency or Federal manner up to 1825 or thereabouts have afterwards had Greek-Revival vagaries hitched onto them, at a much later date, that not a few people have been misled into thinking them a Greek-Revival product, which they are emphatically not.

Senator Van Dyke, fully cognisant of the change, and in sympathy with it, designed the house for his son with due appreciation of the fresh outlook. In doing so, he produced an impressive example of the final stage of New Castle's most distinguished architectural period. The house is a two-storey-and-attic, three-bay structure, with the doorway at one side of a broad front. This type is well calculated for city use, where its individuality remains intact regardless of neighbouring buildings. Nevertheless, the type oftentimes occurs in rural settings in Delaware as, for instance, the Sutton house in St. George's, or the Glebe House of Immanuel Church, where the good qualities of the sides can be seen.

The cornice of the Kensey Johns Van Dyke house is of brick, a frequent characteristic of "simplified Regency" houses. The brick walls are laid in Flemish-bond, thus sticking to earlier Georgian precedent. The early nineteenth century witnessed an increasing preference for running bond. In many instances this break with a sound masonry tradition is matter for regret. Running bond can never give the same rich wall texture as the Flemish-bond.

The shutters of the ground floor windows are unique. The mouldings in each panel are arranged in a succession of concentric rectangles, diminishing in size to a few inches, thus producing an illusion of unusual depth. Whether this arresting device was an ingenious conceit of Nicholas Van Dyke's or an

invention of the master-builder, it is impossible to say. It catches the eye at once and adds a pleasant bit of originality to the facade.

The interior is noteworthy for its generous dimensions. As one enters, the wide hall is arched mid-way, with the stair rising beyond the arch. At the left are the doors opening into two spacious rooms that, together with the hall, take up the entire ground-floor area of the main body of the house. An ample-sized extension continues from the rear of the hall.

The woodwork, especially in the hall arch, is of admirable quality with well-studied and delicate detail. The doors of the rooms are mahogany. Panelling and similar embellishments above fireplaces being no longer in vogue, the focus of decorative effort in each room throughout the house is the mantel. Some of the mantels are of the grey marble becoming popular in the first decades of the nineteenth century. Other mantels are of wood, and of finely wrought design. All the mantels are handsome.

An event always remembered in connection with the Kensey Johns Van Dyke house is the visit of the Marquis de la Fayette in 1824. When the famous and beloved old General came to make his tour of the United States in 1824-25, he was received with great acclaim in Wilmington on the morning of October 6th, 1824. After an exhausting round of entertainment, he was escorted to New Castle.

After a brief stop, it is said, at the house of George Read, he was driven to the Kensey Johns Van Dyke house to attend the marriage of Senator Van Dyke's daughter, Dorcas Montgomery Van Dyke to Charles Irenée du Pont. There, standing under the graceful arch in the hall, the old Marquis gave the bride away.

KENSEY JOHNS HOUSE

Third and Delaware Streets, facing The Green, New Castle

The Kensey Johns House, facing The Green, at the corner of Third and Delaware Streets, was built in 1789-1790. As happened so generally in eighteenth-century America, it was the result of collaboration between the owner and the master-carpenter, house-carpenter, carpenter-architect or whatever one chooses to call the capable craftsman who put into tangible form the owner's conception of what he wanted. Both owner and master-builder had access to good architectural books wherein they could find both patterns suggested and specific directions for complete execution.

The house devised by Kensey Johns is a three-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure on a cut-stone foundation. The one-storey extension with separate entrance, at the north side of the main house is the law office, a characteristic feature of town houses built for lawyers in the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth. What is now the kitchen wing, at the rear of the house, is a much older structure and, at least part of it, is believed to have been the dwelling of a prosperous Dutchman, Ambrose Backer, who died in 1695.

Noteworthy features of the house, apart from the fine brickwork, are the generous dimensions of the windows on both floors, twenty-four panes each, and the doorway with its fluted pilasters and pediment, omitting the arch and fanlight so much favoured in the late eighteenth century.

The panelling and other interior woodwork items are admirable and quite what one would expect from the promise of the exterior. The stair and the mantels, with their marble fireplace facings, deserve special mention. Lampson Sarrette, a contemporary craftsman, it is recorded, made the banisters and newel posts of the stair. The brass keyplates, locks and latches on the doors all date from the building of the house, except two that were given to Mount Vernon when it was restored in 1910.

Kensey Johns, who built the house always known by his name, was born at West River, in Maryland, in 1759. He began his studies in the law at Annapolis under Judge Chase but finished his law reading at New Castle under the tuition of the elder George Read, the Signer. He soon won recognition as an able lawyer and built up a substantial practice. In 1784 he married Ann Van Dyke, the daughter of Governor Van Dyke. The wedding took place in Amstel House. After Governor Van Dyke's death in 1789, the young couple continued to live in Amstel House until their new home, facing The Green, was ready for them to move into it.



Kensey Johns House, Third and Delaware Streets. New Castle.



Kensey Johns, Jr., House, Fourth and Delaware Streets, New Castle.

Kensey Johns served in the State Constitutional Convention of 1792. Two years later he was appointed a Justice of the State Supreme Court. In 1798 he became Chief Justice of Delaware and continued to hold this high office until 1830, when he became Chancellor. He resigned the Chancellorship in 1832, when he was seventy-two years old, after forty years of public service. Thereafter he lived in retirement until his death in 1849, a venerable nonagenarian. Kensey Johns's descendants lived in the house into the twentieth century.

KENSEY JOHNS, JUNIOR HOUSE

At the northeast corner of Delaware and Fourth Streets, New Castle

The Kensey Johns, Jr., house at the northeast corner of Delaware and Fourth Streets, was built in 1823 on the back part of the lot on which the Kensey Johns, Sr., house, facing The Green, had been built thirty-three years earlier. Its front is on Delaware Street. Diagonally across Delaware Street is the house Senator Van Dyke had built for himself in 1799. Directly opposite on Fourth Street is Amstel House, where Kensey Johns, Jr.'s mother, Ann Van Dyke, had been married to his father. These three houses in a group at Delaware and Fourth Streets are, so to speak, a "chronicle in brick and wood of three generations."

Across Delaware Street, and farther on down toward the river are more of those houses that have severally contributed so much to New Castle's distinguished architectural aspect. The Kensey Johns, Jr., house is a counting unit in this goodly array. The house itself, a two-storey-and-attic, three-bay structure on a high base, is designed in that manner of quiet elegance that marked so much of the brick domestic architecture toward the close of the Regency or Federal era.

Interest of the composition in front, with its round-arched and shuttered central doorway, well-dimensioned windows and cornice, is sustained at the sides by the curtain walls, connecting the chimneys, disposition of the windows and such simple amenities as countersunk panels in the brickwork.

The interior of the main body of the house is two rooms deep, at each side of the central hall, and there is a sizeable wing extension at the rear. The woodwork and other items of interior appointment are typical of the period.

Who designed the Kensey Johns, Jr., house is not definitely known. It is not one of the structures attributed to that versatile and clever designer, Senator Nicholas Van Dyke, but one cannot help feeling that the Senator must have acted somewhat in an advisory or critical capacity for his nephew. The whole character of the house is consistent with the type of building that appealed to the Senator, and it fits perfectly into the local picture in the creation of which he had been a prime mover.

Kensey Johns, Jr. was a prominent lawyer in his day and was active in public life. He served two terms in the House of Representatives and subsequently followed in his father's footsteps, succeeding him as Chancellor of Delaware in 1832. He was a friend of Henry Clay whom he entertained at his house. After the death of Kensey Johns, Jr. John H. Rodney lived in the house for a number of years. The present occupants are Justice and Mrs. Daniel F. Wolcott.

OLD DUTCH HOUSE

Third Street, between Harmony and Delaware Streets, facing The Green, New Castle

The Old Dutch House was acquired in 1938 by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities and restored. The said Society was disbanded and the house presented to the New Castle Historical Society and maintained in the public interest. Records show that the house was standing in 1704; tradition puts its building somewhat earlier. By 1671 a small lot on the approximate site of the Old Dutch House belonged to the former Dutch Governour, Jean Paul Jacquet. In 1682 a larger plot that included the site of the house was owned by George More, who had "a logg house" on the property. The log house is again recorded in



Old Dutch House, Third Street facing The Green. New Castle.



Booth House, Delaware Street, between Second and Third Streets, New Castle.

1687. In 1701 Powell Barens (in English later, Paul Barns) had the Old Dutch House site surveyed. He had inherited it from his mother, who may possibly have built the house now standing before 1700. Barens, it would appear, was the most likely builder.

The walls of the ground floor are of brick. The upper floor is of timber construction, and the exterior of the gable ends is weatherboarded. The penthouse on the street front extends so far outward that its top becomes the lower part of the roof slope.

In a corner of one of the two front rooms of the ground floor the stair, closed off by a door, winds up behind the fireplace. The interior woodwork and panelling are good, simple but well finished. The kitchen is at the rear, covered by the long back slope of the roof. Like most old Dutch houses in America, the Old Dutch House from outside looks smaller than it really is. The two rooms in front, looking out on the street, are not large, but they are not cramped; the kitchen in the rear is generous-sized.

The Dutch, who began building houses on the present site of New Castle in 1651, had more than a hundred buildings erected by 1658. At first they used timber framing covered with planks or clapboards, but they soon had bricks and built structures like the Old Dutch House. Though its actual date may be a very few years later than 1700, it is nevertheless thoroughly representative of New Castle's earliest domestic architecture.

It is now owned by the New Castle Historical Society which maintains it as a museum with period furnishings and an attractive restored garden. The Dutch House Museum is open daily from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., admission twenty-five cents.

RODNEY HOUSE

16 Third Street, New Castle

The Rodney House on Third Street, facing The Green, presents an unostentatious, well-bred appearance without any distinct peculiarity to fix attention at first sight. The casual visitor to New Castle, without knowing something of its story, might be content to dismiss it in the category of two-storey-and-attic brick houses of three-bay width, with Flemish-bond brickwork and a brick cornice, a seemly late example of the "simplified Regency" or Federal type of townhouse. But it is much more than that. The Rodney House marks the end of an era in New Castle's architectural history, an era that began under the Duke of York's Government, before Williamsburg, and continued to the early Victorian age; an era in which combined excellence and diversity alike appeared in the several modes of architectural expression, Dutch, pre-Georgian, Early, Middle and Late Georgian, and Graeco-Roman or Regency, to an extent probably unparallelled in any one other part of the original thirteen Colonies and States.

The Rodney House is also a symbol of the pervading spirit of New Castle, a spirit of contented assurance based upon the knowledge of an honourable past and the presence, from year to year, of an exceptionally numerous proportion of citizens eminent in the law and conspicuous for the parts they have played in public service to both State and Nation.

Besides being symbolic of New Castle's abiding spirit, the Rodney House is exceptional in that it has always remained in the ownership and occupancy of one family and has thus escaped the vicissitudes, often mutilations, that have visited many another New Castle house on changes of ownership.

The annexed one-storey law office on the south side, with its own independent entrance, and the jalousies or shutters at the front door, are indicative of the conservative traditions that dominate the town. The jalousies or slatted shutters at house doors, though by no means peculiar to New Castle, are more in general evidence there than at most other places in Delaware. They are a boon in warm weather by allowing a free circulation of air through halls.

The Honourable George B. Rodney, a lawyer of ability who represented Delaware in the United States Congress from 1840 to 1844, came from Lewes in 1831 and built the house that his lawyer descendants

have lived in ever since. The little attached law-office has continuously fulfilled its intended purpose from the outset.

The date of the house, 1831, is significant. It was a time when many people were thinking of domestic architecture in Greek-Revival terms. Not a few who had embraced the new vogue with enthusiasm had begun to build houses that displayed some feature they thought indicative of Classic Greek taste.

Fortunately, George Rodney showed wise conservatism in holding to the sound pattern that Senator Van Dyke had set a decade earlier, when he designed the house at Third and Delaware Streets for his son. The Rodney House thus put the final period to New Castle's long story of worthy building practice. Not until more than a decade later was there any attempt to introduce a radically new style for any structure of importance in the town.

BOOTH HOUSE

216 Delaware Street, New Castle

The Booth House, on the south side of Delaware Street, opposite the Court House, is the result of three separate stages of growth. The oldest part, built about 1720, is the brick two-storey-and-attic portion three bays wide, on the ground floor of which are the front door and the two windows west of it. The first addition, also of brick, is the two-bay part east of the original structure. This was built about 1795. The second addition is the weatherboarded frame part to the west, built at a much later date.

The original structure plainly shows Early-Georgian characteristics. The robust Flemish-bond brickwork and the belt-course between the ground floor and the upper storey; the segmental arches above the windows, including those over the cellar windows, are all features that deserve notice.

When the brick first addition was made to the east, the brick-masons tore away some of the early brickwork at the line of junction and replaced it with later brick of the sort used for the addition, the irregular line of division is still plainly visible. The brickwork of the addition, still in Flemish-bond, lacks the virile quality of the older work.

When the addition was made, a cornice of contemporary pattern was carried across the whole brick frontage, replacing the former cornice on the older part and partially obscuring there the segmental arches above the upper windows. The present doorway, not the door, coincides with the current fashion of the addition.

Inside the older part of the house, the woodwork of the hall is noteworthy for a particularly fine stair, with a balustrade of vigorous baluster-turned spindles. The addition, one room deep, is marked by a graceful and handsome wooden mantel embellished with French-putty figures. An elaborate mantel of the same sort has been placed in the front room of the older part of the house. The original rear wing of the older part has been replaced by a later construction.

Until a few years ago the entire brick frontage of the Booth House was covered with stucco. Its timely removal has revealed the true quality of one of the most significant items in New Castle's architectural galaxy.

Two engaging, and quite different, personalities are closely associated with the Booth House, those of New Castle's literary celebrity, Robert Montgomery Bird, and of Chief-Justice James Booth, Jr. Judge Booth, the younger, was born in the house in 1789. About 1794 or 1795, his father, Chief-Justice Booth, the elder, bought a house farther up Delaware Street, at the corner of Third, and sold 216 to John Bird, who had married Elizabeth Van Leuvenigh. In 1810 John Bird died suddenly of a heart attack brought on by the failure of Riddle and Bird, Government Navy agents, which left him bankrupt. His little son Robert was only four years old. The house was sold by the United States Marshal; the purchaser was Senator Nicholas Van Dyke. Senator Van Dyke took little Robert, his nephew, into his own home; another uncle, Robert Montgomery, provided the funds for his education.

As a young man, Robert Montgomery Bird developed marked literary talent. His romances and dramas gained wide popularity. His *Nick of the Woods*, somewhat in the manner of James Fenimore Cooper, won

wide acclaim in America, while in England and Germany it was repeatedly reprinted to meet a popular demand that persisted for more than fifty years.

As a dramatist, he wrote plays for Edwin Forrest, who produced them with great success in both America and England, he himself playing the leading roles. These plays by Robert Montgomery Bird contributed much to both fame and profit for Forrest. Though moderately paid and duly credited as the author, Montgomery never had full measure of renown nor the satisfaction of seeing his plays in print. Unassisted, in his own day "he attained recognition in a field where only his talents could help him." It is matter for regret that recognition has not been more enduring in the place of his birth.

Chief-Justice Booth, Jr., after his marriage, returned to live in the house where he was born. Being directly opposite the Court House, it fitted in with the Judge's notions of judicial comfort and convenience. The story of his highly original and independent behaviour cannot be better told than in the words of the New Castle Historical Society's *New Castle on the Delaware.*

> "When a jury had failed to make up its mind on a verdict and night came on, he would leave the perplexed jurors in the sheriff's charge, as judges do, and go home across the street to bed; but instead of leaving the jurymen irrevocably locked up for the night, he gave standing directions to be carried out if the twelve should agree. As soon as a belated jury reached its verdict an attendant would run and ring the court house bell. After its peals had disturbed slumber sufficiently the Judge would emerge from his door in hastily donned slippers and dressing gown. Hurrying across the street, he would mount the bench, hear the verdict, and if there were occasion, sentence the defendant. It was humane for the jurors and for innocent prisoners, profitable also, no doubt, for innkeepers nearby after jurors were released, and it tended to keep jurors thinking about the case instead of dozing the night out in their chairs."

"WILLIAM PENN" HOUSE

206 Delaware Street, New Castle

The house generally known as the "William Penn" house, at 206 Delaware Street, gives no impression of great age from the aspect of its street front. The original brickwork of the front has been replaced by a modern facing of brick and the other features of the facade have been adjusted to conform to the architectural usage of a period much later than the date at which the house was actually built.

Seen from the back, and from the alley way at the side, the rough, worn brickwork of the walls and the characteristic architectural features of the exterior, mark the house as a survival of the earliest type of building in the town, marking it unqestionably a survival from the seventeenth century.

The house recalls one of the most dramatic events in the history of New Castle, namely, of Penn's arrival in the New World. His long negotiations with the Duke of York for possession of the Three Lower Counties upon Delaware were settled just before Penn sailed. This agreement caused him to land at New Castle October 28, 1682, to take seisin of his additional territory before he even set foot in his proprietary Province of Pennsylvania, granted him by the Crown.

After taking seisin of his added territory by the ancient ceremony of "twig, turf and soyle", Penn spent the night at the house of Arnoldus de Lagrange, who had witnessed the ceremonies, took the Oath of Allegiance and was appointed a Justice by Penn.

Arnoldus de Lagrange is believed to have been the occupant of the house at this time. There is a warrant from Penn of a survey of land for Henry Watkinson, filed in the State Archives, with a note by Ephraim Herman, Surveyor, that this past before ye Proprietor Wm. Penn in ye house of Mr. LaGrange in New Castle.

In 1696 Cornelius Empson, "gentleman", a Justice of the courts, bought the house. From the very early years of the eighteenth century the house belonged to innkeepers until 1722, when the last innkeeper's widow sold the property to Isaac Janvier and Joseph Hill.



McIntire House, at right; Gunning Bedford House, middle; and Old Farmers' Bank, left, on The Strand, New Castle.



Colby House, Delaware Street, west of The Strand, New Castle.

In 1729 Isaac Janvier sold the house to his brother, Francis Janvier, and Francis Janvier's family and descendants lived there until 1842. Through a succession of later owners, the house has come to its present condition. The first drastic changes were made in 1858 by George W. Turner who removed the hip-roof and other radical alterations. Inside, unfortunately, the original fireplaces have been walled up and many other original features obliterated.

COLBY HOUSE

110 Delaware Street, New Castle

The small two-storey-and-attic brick house, 110 Delaware Street, is generally known as the Colby House, from Miss Colby who owned and restored it in 1936. This house is of two different dates.

The street front has all the earmarks that indicate it as a structure of the late seventeenth or very early eighteenth century. The excellent brickwork, the vigourous belt course, and the simple but effective denticulated band adorning the cornice unite to verify an early date.

The small two-storey rear wing we know was built in the late seventeenth century. It is "the newly-built brick house" of Martin Rosemont (Rosemond or Roseman) into which he moved in 1675.

In 1670 Rosemont had bought from Peter Alrichs, then in favour under the Duke of York's Government, the whole south side of present Delaware Street from the river up to present Second Street. He had lived on or near part of this land as early as 1656, in the Dutch period, when he was a Deacon of the Dutch Church, in charge of the town's poor. He was also in the employ of the Town Councillors.

In 1675, about the time he moved into his "newly-built brick house," Rosemont sold the adjoining property to the east, the site of the Van Leuvenigh house, to John Edmundson. Edmundson seems to have built a house thereon for, in 1677, John Moll, one of the magistrates who was to conduct the ceremony by which William Penn took seisin to the soil of New Castle County, acquired the property as "a certain house and lot of ground with the by-houses standing upon and belonging to the same."

John Moll kept the property for ten years and then sold it to ship-carpenter John Forat. Eventually it came into the possession of Zachariah Van Leuvenigh.

Within two years after moving into his "newly-built brick house," Rosemont died. His heirs sold it to John Cann and from him it passed successively to John White, Robert Turner, Edward Blake, Blake's heirs and John Richardson, all of them responsible citizens who were active in the development of New Castle.

In 1749 Zachariah Van Leuvenigh owned the house and, in all likelihood lived in it till he bought the adjoining corner property to the east in 1765 and remodelled what was already there into the present Van Leuvenigh house. On March 25, 1787, soon after his marriage, George Read, the younger, rented the little house on Delaware Street from Van Leuvenigh for £25 per annum. This dwelling at 110 Delaware Street is one of the most engaging of the many charming small houses in New Castle.

GUNNING BEDFORD HOUSE

6, The Strand, New Castle

The house at Number 6, The Strand, very generally known as the Gunning Bedford House, is a three-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick dwelling, coated with stucco. Both Number 6 and Number 8, the McIntire House, next door, have foundations lifted somewhat above those of the neighbouring houses. This undesired elevation occurred in 1804, when The Strand was graded and several years later paved with cobbles.

Hence, in the case of both houses lateral flights of stone steps from the pavement ascend, in opposite directions, on each side to railed platforms before the adjacent house doors. Porches or verandahs in New Castle were not used in front of houses, but at the sides. It was the New Castle custom "to build porches only at the garden entrances where the families spent their hours of leisure."

The Gunning Bedford house is said to have been built some time before 1730 by John Van Gezel,

grandson of one of New Castle's Dutch founders, Cornelius Van Gezel. John Van Gezel was a saddler and is thought to have conducted his business from a shop on his "water lot," on the other side of The Strand, opposite his dwelling.

Gunning Bedford (1742-1797), in spite of maternal disapproval from Christiana Bridge, in 1768 married Mary Read, the sister of George Read, the Signer. In January, 1776, he was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel in Colonel John Haslet's Delaware Regiment, served in the New Jersey campaign, and was wounded later at the Battle of White Plains.

He was admitted to the Bar in 1779 and soon afterwards became Prothonotary of New Castle County. During a large part of his married life he lived in the house on The Strand that is always associated with his name. He was continuously active in public service.

In 1784, 1785 and 1786 he sat as a member of the Delaware State House of Representatives; in 1783 and 1790 he was a member of the Privy Council; and, in 1788, he became Register of Wills from New Castle County. He was thrice a Delegate from Delaware in the Continental Congress.

When he was fifty-three years old, Gunning Bedford was elected the eleventh Governor of the Delaware State. In this office he served until his death, September 30, 1797. He was buried in Immanuel Churchyard.

George Read, the younger, Mrs. Bedford's nephew lived in Number 6 while he was building his house farther up The Strand. In 1803 he sold the Gunning Bedford House to Caleb P. Bennett who opened a hotel therein for the stage and packet boat passengers. At the back of the lot, and the adjoining lots, were the stables for the stage lines and, later, for the horse-drawn cars of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad.

Caleb P. Bennett was a Chester County Quaker but, nevertheless, served throughout the Revolutionary War, fought at the Battle of the Brandywine, was wounded at the Battle of Germantown, was with Washington at Valley Forge and, at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, was in command of one of the American batteries. During the War of 1812 he was a Major in the Delaware State Militia and commanded the forces at New Castle.

As a Jacksonian Democrat, Bennett was elected the twenty-ninth Governor of Delaware in November, 1832, the first governor to be elected under the Constitution of 1832. He served until his death in July, 1836. Notwithstanding his Jacksonian democracy, and being a Quaker, to boot, to the end of his life he wore ruffled shirts, white kid knee-breeches, long silk stockings, silver shoe and knee-buckles and a velvet coat with brass buttons. He also powdered his hair and wore a queue.

Another occupant of the Gunning Bedford house was Andrew Caldwell Gray. The revered George Gray, lawyer, statesman and judge, was born there May 4, 1840.

McINTIRE HOUSE

8 The Strand, New Castle

The McIntire House is so called for a former owner and occupant, the late State Senator George McIntire. It is one of the smaller very early brick houses of New Castle. Drastic interior alterations have been made from time to time, but it is still possible to trace the original plan and the placing of the chief features.

The character of the panelling and other interior woodwork, along with the evidence of plan, leave no doubt of the building's early date. If the house was not standing in 1690, it was certainly in use as a comfortable dwelling but a very few years after that date. It is eloquent of the manner of town life when it was built.

In the 1660's the double plot on which the house stands had been owned by Martin Gerritsen, a member of the Gerritsen (Garretsen) families who had early land grants from Peter Stuyvesant. In 1723 the house belonged to John Van Gezel.

This house was the home of Richard McWilliam, the younger, who married Mary, the daughter of Zachariah Van Leuvenigh. The elder Richard McWilliam came from Ireland to New Castle in the 1730's. In 1764 he became an Associate Justice and, in 1773, became Chief Justice.

VAN LEUVENIGH HOUSE

Southwest corner, The Strand and Delaware Street, New Castle

In 1765 Zachariah Van Leuvenigh bought the property at the southwest corner of The Strand and Delaware Street (*v.* Colby House). By remodelling and considerable addition he created the seemly dwelling, facing the river, that is always known as the Van Leuvenigh house. Curiously enough, the house has a hipped roof on the end towards Delaware Street; the rest of the roof is gambrel.

Generally speaking, the river front approximates the five-bay Georgian type with central hall, but the house has been so frequently altered and re-altered that any exact architectural classification is impossible, The door is good Georgian and characteristic of 1765; the doorway is decadent Greek-Revival of about 1840. Inside are clearly visible traces of the earlier house, or houses, built by John Edmundson or John Moll (*v.* Colby House), but most evidences of the earliest work vanished under Zachariah Van Leuvenigh's Georgian programme; and Van Leuvenigh's Georgian interiors have been effaced by iconoclastic Greek-Revivalists!

In spite of all this often thoughtless surgery, the house retains a very definite charm and dignity that warrant its rank as one of the great houses of New Castle. It is a scarred but still vigorous veteran of the town's architectural genesis.

Zachariah Van Leuvenigh's forebears had come from Holland with the early settlers of New Netherland. Several generations of the family had lived nearby or in New Castle, where Zachariah's father, John Van Leuvenigh, was a merchant. Zachariah himself is described as "a man of distinguished mien and cultivation, and of adequate fortune."

In 1764 Zachariah Van Leuvenigh became one of the Trustees of New Castle Common. Concerned to prevent encroachments on the 1068 acres of Common set off by Penn in 1701 for the benefit of the town, the people of New Castle besought Thomas and Richard Penn, then the Proprietaries, to grant the land of the Common in perpetual trust to such men of New Castle as would care for the property and administer it in the interest of all the townspeople.

The two Penns executed the desired deed of trust on November 17, 1764, and by this deed named the original thirteen Trustees to hold title of the Proprietary forever "in free and common socage . . . paying therefor yearly . . . one ear of Indian corn, if demanded." The successors of the original thirteen are still elected for life.

In the stirring years immediately preceding and during the Revolutionary War, Zachariah Van Leuvenigh was Chief Magistrate of New Castle. To his house came the post riders with news of the Battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill. At his house Van Leuvenigh signed the messages. While the riders were being refreshed to speed them on their way to Baltimore, he gave the news to the town. He died in 1789 after an active life in business as a tanner, the care of his property, and continuous public service.

Just beyond the Van Leuvenigh house a marker commemorates the site of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad Terminus, where for a quarter of a century after 1832, travellers changed from railroad to go down Packet Alley to the steamboat or, coming up from Packet Alley, boarded the train on the popular route between Washington City and the North.

READ HOUSE

The Strand, New Castle

The Read house, on The Strand in New Castle, stands at the summit of the town's long and distinguished record of achievement in domestic architecture. Begun in 1797, it was finished in 1801.

The house George Read the younger, son of the "Signer", built for himself is exceptional in its detailed documentation, thanks to the preservation of George Read's account books and other papers. Not only do



VanLeuvenigh House. The Strand and Delaware Streets, New Castle.



Read House, The Strand, New Castle.

we know past all question who the builder was, and the precise date of erection, but it is a matter of record that Peter Crowding, of Philadelphia, was the contractor or master-carpenter who put George Read's design into tangible form; that the bricks for the walls, bought of Hornkett in Philadelphia, were brought down the river to New Castle in shallops; that Thomas Spikeman, of Wilmington, was the bricklayer who laid the bricks in place; and that James Traquair, a stone-mason of Philadelphia, did the stone-cutting.

We even know that on September 14th, 1797, Richard Grubb was given $1.00 for rum to treat the workmen on hand at the laying of the corner-stone. Digging for the foundations had started earlier in the month.

We also know that the course of construction was not all plain sailing. Elizabeth Clay Lees, writing from England early in 1804 to her sister, Mrs. James Booth of New Castle, enquires of home news and asks, "whether G. R. (George Read, the younger) has got into his elevated house, as the last I heard respecting him he and his carpenters were at law together." George Read, it seems, was a punctilious perfectionist and had no qualms about rejecting what did not suit him.

As an instance of the Late-Georgian or Neo-Classic phase of domestic architecture, the Read house is peculiarly satisfying. The composition of the structure is both vigorous and well-balanced. At the same time, the refinements of appropriate enrichment are employed with good judgement and restraint. The surfeit of exquisite elegancies that sometimes overloaded the more elaborate Neo-Classic creations, and ultimately brought about the Graeco-Roman reaction, was avoided.

The Read house faces east by south. Like many other Georgian houses, it is of five-bay frontage with a central hall, but the plan differs from the more usual arrangement where the stair ascends from the end of the central hall, directly opposite the house-door. In this case, at the left on entering, the main body of the house is two rooms deep. There is the parlour and, back of it, the living-room or library, with a large double folding-door between them.

To the right, on entering, is the dining-room. Midway of the hall is an arch and, just beyond it, on the right hand, the winding stair of two flights, with a landing midway up, ascends in the space immediately behind the dining-room. The stair landing is just beneath a large Palladian window in the north end-wall of the house.

The wide stair entrance is graced by another arch, of the same height as the arch dividing the main hall. As the ceilings on the ground floor are thirteen feet high, there is space for the arches to be treated with impressive dignity. Directly beyond the stair arch, at the right, is a small room. This completes the depth of the main house. To the northeast of the main block, and of width equal to that of the main structure to the right of the hall, is the service wing.

An unusual feature is the four-centred arch that spans the wide double-doorway between the parlour and the living-room. The fanlight above the doorheads is glazed and the leading of the glass forms an intricate decorative pattern. The doors here, as elsewhere throughout the house, are of mahogany.

The fireplaces are faced with dark marble and the wooden mantels are of exceptional beauty. The carving of the woodwork is delicate and skillfully wrought and there is also rich decoration with Classic figures in French putty.

Not only are the mantels noteworthy, but all the woodwork, both exterior and interior, is admirable. Not a few of the mouldings indoors, mouldings whose pleasing function ordinarily depends on their contours alone, are delicately carved in low relief. It has been said that the house is "profusely decorated." It is, but the decoration has been so judiciously applied, right up to the trim of the dormers, and the graceful urns on the railing of the deck atop the roof, that it is never obtrusive nor aggressive.

Although local history may be silent on the subject, one cannot help wondering whether George Read and his architecturally-minded neighbour, Senator Van Dyke, did not hob-nob more or less and exchange views while the house on The Strand was a-building.

George Read, the younger, born in 1765, was trained for the law and became a jurist of high repute; from the time of his admission to the Bar, he took an active part in the public life of Delaware. In 1813



Old Presbyterian Church, New Castle. Built 1707.



Interior of Old Presbyterian Church, New Castle.

he was a member of the State House of Representatives. Then in 1831 he was a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention along with other distinguished lawyers. Soon after the turn of the century he was appointed United States District-Attorney for Delaware, a post in which he continued for thirty years.

In 1785 George Read married his cousin, Mary Thompson, daughter of General William Thompson. Thence onward, until his own house was built, he lived in different rented houses in New Castle. His father's house on The Strand, just south of the present Read house, was still standing. This house, his boyhood home, was burned in the Great Fire of March, 1824. Fortunately, George Read's own house escaped the conflagration. When he removed the ruins of his father's house, the site was included in his garden.

In October, 1824, when the Marquis de la Fayette paid his brief and crowded visit to New Castle, George Read received the old General at his house and tendered him such hospitality as time would permit. George Read died in 1836 and was buried in Immanuel Churchyard.

In 1842 John Middleton Clayton came to live in the Read House for a short period while he was building Buena Vista, a few miles to the south. While he lived there the house was often the gathering-place of visiting statesmen from Washington.

Not long after John Middleton Clayton's occupancy of the Read House, it came into possession of the Couper family. In 1847, Andrew Jackson Downing laid out the garden on the plot of George Read's father's burned house. Downing's work, with the box borders and geometrical beds, has remained intact and is one of the choice features of the house to-day.

Mrs. Philip Dandridge Laird, the present owner, maintains the place in a manner befitting its history and its importance as a witness to the architectural distinction of New Castle.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Street between Harmony and Delaware Streets, on The Green, New Castle

The Presbyterian Church in New Castle began as the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amstel. The ecclesiastical organisation under the Dutch Government gradually changed, under the Duke of York's Government, into that under the Penn regime.

In April, 1657, along with Director Jacob Alrichs came a schoolmaster, Evert Pietersen, recommended by the Reformed Church Classis of Amsterdam. Besides teaching children the three "R's," his duties were to visit and comfort the sick and to "publicly read God's Word and sing the Psalms." In August of the same year arrived the Reverend Everardus Welius, the first ordained minister of New Amstel.

At that time Andries Hudde, the Secretary and Surveyor at New Amstel, sold his dwelling house on The Strand, site of number 26 and 28, with alley between, "to Director Jacob Alrichs in the presence of the schepens and municipality, to be used as a church for the benefit of the community." The house was remodelled that autumn, 1657, and considerably enlarged in the summer of 1659.

With its ups and downs, the congregation struggled along, sometimes with, sometimes without, a settled minister. On a December Sunday, in 1679, the Labadist Peter Sluyter was in New Castle and wrote:

> "We had an opportunity to-day to hear Domine Tessemaker, which we did, but never heard worse preaching, and I, therefore, had little desire to go again in the afternoon, though I was misled by the ringing of the bell. . . . For the present we can say with truth that he is a perfect worldling."

Domine Tessemaker could preach in English as well as in Dutch.

With the coming of the Duke of York's Government in 1664, English instead of Dutch became the official language with a resulting increase in the number of English-speaking colonists and traders. By the end of the century Dutch was heard but little in New Castle. The Amsterdam Classis no longer could nor would send ministers and, about 1700, the congregation, Dutch, Huguenots, Scots and the English of Calvinistic convictions, was taken into the British Presbyterian fold. English supplanted Dutch in the



Immanuel Church, New Castle, built 1703. Tower and transepts added in 1822. The Old Academy is at the far left.

church services. The Reverend John Wilson was preaching in the town in 1703 and became the first settled Presbyterian pastor in New Castle.

The wood church building on The Strand, remodelled dwelling of Andries Hudde, had become dilapidated for the needs of the congregation. Therefore, at one end of the old Dutch burial ground, the present gambrel-roofed brick church was built in 1707, somewhat enlarged soon afterwards.

In 1854 a larger brown stone church was built just to the north. The old church was stuccoed on the outside and used for the Sunday School. In 1949, on the removal of the brown stone building, the old church was carefully restored and returned to its original use.

The restoration has blessed New Castle with an admirable and fully representative example of early eighteenth-century ecclesiastical architecture in the Colonies.

IMMANUEL CHURCH

North end of The Green, New Castle

The first Church of England clergyman to come to New Castle, under the Duke of York's Government, was the Reverend John Yeo, who arrived from Maryland in 1677. In 1679 he was at some variance with Christopher Billop, the then Chief Magistrate, who arbitrarily dismissed him, without any authority for so doing.

The English population of New Castle and the nearby countryside was increasing steadily and the Church of England folk were not content to be dependent upon the Dutch reformed pastor, when there was one, for religious ministrations. In 1689, when the Reverend Mr. Tasschenmaker, the Dutch Reformed minister, removed to Schenectady, there was no clergyman of any kind left in New Castle.

It was natural, therefore, that a church should be established in accordance with the views of the now numerous English inhabitants. Besides, under the Duke of York's Government, the Church of England was the Established Church, just as the Dutch Reformed Church had been under the Dutch Government. Immanuel Parish was organised in 1689 by loyal Church of England folk, although there was no immediate prospect of having a resident parson, and they knew that for the time being they would have to depend on the occasional visits of missionaries from elsewhere for the ministrations of the Church.

Services were probably held in the old Court Room in the Fort. When there was no visiting missionary priest, a lay-reader could, and often doubt-less did, read Mattins or Evensong, the proper Lessons and, perhaps, a sermon from an authorised Book of Homilies.

In 1701 was organised in London the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, largely through the untiring efforts of Dr. Thomas Bray who, as Commissary for the Bishop of London, visited all the churches in the American Colonies. All the American Colonies were included in the Diocese of London. Soon after its organisation, the Society, generally known as the S.P.G., began to send missionaries to the American Colonies and to give assistance to clergymen already in the field. Aware of the Society's purposes, the Churchmen of New Castle

> "from a sense of a want of a person in Holy Orders to reside among them, & observing how the Presbyterians were gaining ground in the place by reason of their having a Preacher to promote their interest, Resolved to Petition the Bishop of London to take compassion on their deplorable circumstances."

"In confidence of a favourable answer from his Lordship's charitable disposition," in August, 1703

> "they agreed with workmen to build a House of public worship, drawing up a formula for themselves and Friends, to subscribe & set down wt sum, each of them was willing to bestow towards the erecting the Fabric; and at the same time, appointed Richard Hollowell, Jasper Yeates, and Joseph Wood, of New Castle, Gent'n (they being willing to take the trouble upon them), to be overseers of the Building & Agents to collect the Charity of pious, well-disposed persons."

Governour Francis Nicholson of Virginia gave £25 sterling to the building fund. In New Castle the "pious, well-disposed persons" were numerous. Both contributions and gifts came from Pennsylvania, a silver flagon and a "damask Table Cloath" from Governour Gookin; and contributions from William Trent, Joshua Carpenter, the Honourable John Moore and Colonel Robert Quarry, the two latter staunch Churchmen and Crown Admiralty Officers in Philadelphia. Queen Anne, always deeply concerned for the welfare of the Church in the Colonies, sent an Altar Cloth, a pulpit fall and a "Box of Glass."

For an available site these Church of England people saw no need to search. They decided to build their Church on the Market Square itself, land expressly dedicated to the free use of the public. The Reverend George Ross, the first settled priest, further explained this decision when he wrote that:

> "in a corner [of the Market Square] whereof stood formerly a Fort, & on the Gound whereon the said Citadel was built, they agreed to erect their church, from a persuasion that, as it belonged to their sovereign, it was not in the power of any of their troublesome neighbours to disturb them in their commendable undertaking.

The spot selected was east of, but close to, the site of the Fort built of logs in 1672, the building where Penn took seisin as Proprietary in the ceremony of October 28, 1682.

In a much later report to the Venerable Society, the Reverend Mr. Ross describes the church as fifty feet long and thirty feet broad, and continues:

> "Its materials are Brick covered with Cedar. It is beautified of late with a Gallery & a Porch by the diligency & good conduct of the present Church Wardens, Richard Grafton & W^{m} Read, men of real zeal for the honour of Christ & his Religion."

The Reverend George Ross came to Immanuel Church in 1703 and remained at New Castle till the latter part of 1708 or early in 1709, when he removed himself to Chester, to the great regret and annoyance of the Vestry and congregation, and against the advice of more than one of the nearest clergy.

Thereupon the Reverend Thomas Jenkins, whom the Society had sent to St. Anne's, Middletown, transferred himself to Immanuel Church, to escape difficult living conditions and the Appoquinimink mosquitos. He stayed only a short time and then returned to St. Anne's; he died "of mosquitos" soon thereafter.

On July 26, 1710, came the Reverend Robert St. Claire and remained at Immanuel Church until 1712. A few months later, he was followed by the Reverend Jacob Henderson who was in charge of the parish until 1714, when the Reverend George Ross returned permanently as Rector and remained in New Castle the rest of his life.

Although the roofed vestibule or porch was planned earlier, it was not until about 1727 that this addition was actually made. In 1820 Immanuel Church assumed its present form under the care of the Philadelphia architect, William Strickland. He gave his services to the Church free of all charge. The old hip-roofed nave, with the chancel at the east end, was completely transformed by the addition of tower, steeple and transepts. The congregation found itself sitting reversed, facing the chancel that was now installed at the west end. The new brick walls and the tower, as well as the brick walls of the old building were coated with buff stucco.

The Churchyard at Immanuel Church, with the exception of a few vacant spaces in family plots, is completely filled. Burials are now made in the cemetery on the Glebe Farm, just north of New Castle.

Many of those who have done important public service in the history of Delaware are buried in Immanuel Churchyard. Amongst them are George Read, the Signer, Governor Gunning Bedford, Chancellor Kensey Johns, Governor Thomas Stockton, General John Stockton, the Chief-Justices James Booth, Sr. and Jr., Governor Nicholas Van Dyke and Senator Nicholas Van Dyke, Jr.

Along with them are the remains of many more who through the years have faithfully served their State and Country in less conspicuous posts. *Requiescant omnes in pace.*

GLEBE HOUSE

On side road from right hand side of River Road, going north, New Castle

The Glebe, a tract of open farm land north of New Castle, jutting out between the town marsh and Swanwyck marsh, belonged to Captain John Carr, under the Duke of York's Government. A little later, it became the property of Richard Halliwell, a prosperous New Castle merchant in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

In 1719, Richard Halliwell, who was one of the Vestry of Immanuel Church, gave the farm to Immanuel Parish for a glebe, whereon the Rector might live, and the farm income of which he might enjoy. For a long time nothing was done about building a Rectory on the Glebe. Then, in February, 1821, the General Assembly of Delaware approved:

> "the raising by way of lottery, a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars for the purpose of repairing and enlarging the Protestant Episcopal Church in the town of New Castle called Immanuel Church, building a parsonage-house, and discharging the debts of the said Church."

Although this lottery had been arranged, an entry in the Vestry Minutes, made December 4, 1826, indicates, nearly five years later, that the proposed Rectory had not yet been built. The entry reads:

> "The object of this meeting was to take into consideration . . . the purchasing at this time a lot of ground suitable for the erection of a parsonage-house."

The matter was then postponed because of differences among the Vestry. Again, at its meeting August 15, 1827, the Vestry appointed a Committee to "make a report of a suitable site for a Parsonage House." After that there is no entry in the Minute book until Easter Monday, 1832.

At long last, an entry in the Minute Book, made February 13, 1833, is the following:

> "Resolved that James Booth, the treasurer of the Church, be authorised to insure the Parsonage House, to the amount of 2000 Dollars."

The only possible conclusion to draw, from the foregoing records of the Vestry, is that at some time between August, 1827, and Easter Monday, 1832, the "Parsonage House," the Glebe House, as it is known to-day, came into actual material existence.

Standing alone as it does, this "simplified Regency" house of three-bay width can show its commendable features without any distraction of the eye by the sight of neighbouring buildings, its good Flemish-bond masonry; its neatly-devised brick cornice; its generously-proportioned windows, shuttered belowstairs and louvred above; or its hospitable-looking doorway shuttered in Delaware manner.

The unobstructed view of the side plainly indicates the spaciousness of the attic, and also shows the true depth of the main body of the house. At the back is a roomy kitchen wing. Inside, the house has the same air of substantial simplicity as has the exterior.

Notwithstanding its manifest desirability as a dwelling place, there was a time in the Victorian era when the Glebe House was judged too far out in the country. A house in town, near the Church, was bought; the parson of that day abandoned the Glebe House and was duly installed in the "eligible" town "residence." Immanuel Church was in the anomalous position of having two rectories for one Rector. It was the day when people and tables alike had "limbs," not vulgar "legs." Happily that day passed, the town Rectory, an ugly Victorian contraption, was sold and the Rector once again went to live in the Glebe House.

THE HERMITAGE

West edge of New Castle, near Washington Public School

The Hermitage is one of the visible witnesses to Senator Van Dyke's abiding passion for building. On April 1, 1801, he bought 141 acres with "brick messuage" from David and Mary Finney. The "brick

messuage" consisted of a little two-storey-and-attic dwelling, believed to date from about 1700, to the back of which had been added a brick wing extension somewhere around 1747. Senator Van Dyke, either then or at a later date, named the place The Hermitage. He evidently bought The Hermitage as a farm, not as a place of residence.

In 1801 there were still many people alive who clearly remembered a curious eighteenth-century prejudice once commonly held, that it was prejudicial to health to spend the night in the country. The prejudice had died, but it had formed a habit. By 1800, there were many who, for the past fifty years or more, had lived at their country-seats part of the year, or the whole year around. Some, indeed, had always done so. But there were others who still visited their nearby country-seats for only a day's rest, recreation or farm oversight, and then drove back to town for the night. For them their farms meant not habitation but merely an occasional day's escape from town life and routine.

Senator Van Dyke seems to have considered The Hermitage at first as mainly a place for occasional relaxation in overseeing the farm, and for affording recreation for the young people of the family and their friends. It was not until 1818 that he undertook any new building with a view to making the house suitable for continuous residence in summer.

The part built in 1818 is larger than the two original parts of the house. Like the older portions, it is built of brick, two storeys and a very high attic with broad gables. Instead of the gables rising to a peak the ridge is cut off by a flattish deck, making the roof virtually a gambrel and thus affording greater depth to the new construction. The round-arched doorway and other exterior details savour of the simplified Regency manner, so well exemplified in the Kensey Johns Van Dyke house Senator Van Dyke built for his son two years later at Third and Delaware Streets, in New Castle.

In this 1818 addition to The Hermitage the interior woodwork and the mantels are indicative of the best characteristic design and workmanship of the period. An unusual feature, dictated by the conditions of the pre-existing structure, is at the righthand side of the hall on entering. The wall of the room to the right of the house-door is concave in line. In this curve is a doorway which follows the same curve as the wall, and the door itself is also curved to coincide with the doorway.

OLD COURT HOUSE

On The Green, facing Delaware Street, between Second and Third Streets, New Castle

The Old Court House at New Castle was the centre of Delaware history from the time the first part of it was built, in the earlier eighteenth century, until May 12, 1777, when Dover became the State capital. Thence onward it was the headquarters of the New Castle County Courts and administration until 1881, when the removal of the County Courts to Wilmington reft the Old Court House of its political and judicial prestige.

Throughout its many years of official use, the Court House was the legal and emotional symbol of Delaware's corporate public life. Under Penn's Government it was the occasional meeting place when the members of Assembly for the Three Lower Counties sat along with the members of the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly as a single legislative body. After this attempted unhappy union came to an end, and the Three Lower Counties upon Delaware, from 1704 onward, had their own separate General Assembly, free from the dictation and interference of the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly, the old Court House was their regular meeting-place.

In July, 1776, occurred a dramatic incident in the story of the Court House. The soldiers of Colonel John Haslet's Delaware Regiment:

> "took out of the Court House all the insignias of Monarchy . . . all the baubles of Royalty, and made a pile of them before the Court House . . . set fire to them and burnt them to ashes . . . and a merry day we made of it."

From the Court House, in 1776, went forth the Assembly's summons for the election of members to a Constitutional Convention "to declare the future form of government for this State." The members of the Constitutional Convention thus summoned, met in the Court House and there drew up and adopted the State's first Constitution.

The building of the Court House was the result of a piece-meal process that began in the late seventeenth century, at exactly what date is uncertain, owing to the loss and destruction of records. The story that the earliest portion of the Court House, the east wing, was the scene of that memorable occasion when Penn took seisin to the territory of New Castle County by the delivery of "twig, turf, water and soyle," is without foundation. It is a pleasant story and not a few like to believe it, but the known facts render it untenable.

We know from authentic contemporary records that the ceremony of "twig, turf, water and soyle" took place at the fort, and the fort was at approximately the spot where Immanuel Church now stands. The most that can be said with certainty is that in 1689 Penn ordered ground to be set aside for a court house, and that in 1703 a Church of England clergyman wrote of "the court house" as then standing. At some time between these two dates the oldest part of the Court House must have been built.

In trying to reconstruct a picture of early New Castle, historians have been sadly handicapped by the loss or destruction of so many vitally important records. The records of the Delaware Assembly, and many official papers relating to the courts and the magistrates' proceedings, from early in the Duke of York's Government up to 1722, were destroyed when Colonel John French's house on the Strand was burned. This fire of 1722 caused an irreparable loss.

Another documentary disaster occurred in September, 1777. Just after Howe landed his troops at the Head of Elk, British warships stood out in the Delaware but a short distance below New Castle. All the public records, the great seal, the State papers and the County funds were therefore taken to the farm of Colonel Craghead, near the road to Christiana, and carried thence by waggon to a sloop on the Christina River near Wilmington, on which Dr. John McKinley, the President of Delaware State, had planned to escape to a safe place whence he could direct the affairs of the State. The British captured both President McKinley and the sloop with all its contents.

After the War, some of the contents were recovered from New York, but even after their recovery, many of the papers were not properly cared for and were destroyed or stolen. It is important that these serious documentary impoverishments suffered by Delaware should always be kept in mind. It will stress the necessity of putting all papers of any historical import in a safe repository to be duly recorded and indexed, whether said papers be in private or public ownership, and whether their contents be of personal or public nature. To do so is a matter of thoughtful consideration for posterity.

When the coat of yellow stucco was removed from the walls of the Court House in 1936, much was revealed that had been hitherto unknown, even unsuspected. For one thing, the brickwork of the east wing, the oldest part of the building, showed beyond all doubt that a subsequent early addition had been made to the back and east end of the original structure which, in all likelihood, dated from the latter years of the seventeenth century.

Loss of records makes it impossible to fix the exact date of the main central building. Physical evidence, however, shows that it was a product of the early eighteenth century and an excellent example, at that, of the fine work of the period.

The west wing was completed in 1845. Its granite foundation stones are the former sleepers from the old New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad tracks. The rather rough face of the brickwork, rough as compared with the brickwork of the main central building, favours the supposition that it was intended to be coated with stucco, the use of which was much favoured at the time.

The interior of the Court House has undergone many alterations and rearrangements through the years, especially since 1881, when the County Courts were transferred to Wilmington and the building was no longer a judicial centre. It was after that time that the place was put to all sorts of uses for which it was never intended.



Old Court House, New Castle. At the extreme right is the Old Town Hall.



Old Academy at Fourth and Harmony Street, New Castle.

Since the beginning of the restoration of the Court House in 1955, the old building once more displays its pristine grace and dignity and takes its rightful place as an historic structure in which not only New Castle but the whole of Delaware State may take justifiable pride.

OLD ACADEMY

Southwest corner Third and Harmony Streets, facing The Green, New Castle

The Old Academy at New Castle is a long seven-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick building with central pavilion and pediment, surmounted by a bell-cot cupola. In the central pavilion the arched doorway with fanlight opens into a central hall with a well-proportioned double stair. The Palladian window above the doorway lights the stair and upstairs hall. The windows on both floors are of generous proportions, twenty-four panes each. Built in 1798-99, the cupola added in 1811, the Academy is a worthy representative of the substantial late Middle-Georgian manner without any hint of the furbelows of Neo-Classic elaboration.

By Act of Legislature in 1772, land on The Green for the proposed Academy was conveyed to David Finney, John Thompson, George Read, Thomas McKean and George Monro "as trustees for the inhabitants of the town in their intention to erect a school." Because of unsettled conditions in the years immediately before and during the Revolutionary War, however, no attempt was made to build the Academy until the end of the century.

When the Academy was at last erected in 1798-99, the first trustees were Kensey Johns, James Booth, George Read, Archibald Alexander, James Caldwell and John Crow, under the Act of Incorporation in 1801. In 1808, the one surviving trustee, from the Act of 1772, conveyed the legal title to the ground and building to the later-appointed trustees. The duties of succeeding trustees gradually fell to the Trustees of the Common who furnished the funds for maintenance.

The Academy was not a free school but it took in all who could pay a small tuition fee. In 1829, when New Castle was divided into two election districts for public school purposes, the division line ran through the central hall of the Academy and a lower room on each side of the stair became a polling place for its respective school district.

New Castle did not adopt the public school system until 1852. The Trustees of the Common then established the New Castle Institute, and took over the Arsenal for public school accommodation. The Trustees of the Common received their share of the money due the two school districts from the public school fund, and continued to maintain the Institute, through a Committee of Education, until 1875.

The New Castle Institute charged tuition for those who could afford to pay, but pupils, whose parents could not afford to pay for their schooling, were admitted free. In 1852 the curriculum at the New Castle Institute, for boys and girls alike, included Greek, Latin, English, etymology, history, arithmetic, algebra, physiology and Constitutional history, a sound educational programme, without any needless folderols.

In 1857 four graduates of the Institute entered directly the junior class at Princeton. The following year there were between three and four hundred pupils in attendance. After 1875 the Old Academy did service as a public school until the William Penn School was opened in 1930. On a ninety-nine year lease from the Trustees of the Common the Old Academy is now occupied by Immanuel Church and used for various parish activities.

BOOTHHURST

One and a half miles from New Castle on west side of River Road to Wilmington

Since early in the eighteenth century Boothhurst has passed successively by inheritance to the present owner, Mrs. Laussat R. Rogers. From the Clay family it came, in the female line, to the Booths, and from the Booths, again through the distaff line, to the Rogers family. The most outstanding personality in the



Boothhurst, on River Road from New Castle to Wilmington. View of southwest front.



Eden Park, formerly on River Road. From an oil-colour sketch by Pierre Bauduy.

story of Boothhurst was James Rogers (1779-1868). After studying law for three years in the office of Chancellor Ridgely at Dover, he was admitted to the Bar of New Castle County in 1803 and began active practice as a lawyer. For twenty years, from 1815 to 1830, and again from 1835 to 1840, he was Attorney-General of Delaware and filled the office with marked ability. From 1820 to 1827 he was Adjutant-General of the State. In 1831, as one of the representatives from New Castle County, he sat in the State Constitutional Convention at Dover, which held its sessions in the Presbyterian Church. In 1833 he was appointed Secretary of State in Delaware, and held that post until 1835, when he again became Attorney-General until 1840.

When La Fayette visited Wilmington and New Castle in October, 1824, James Rogers was one of the Committee of eminent citizens of New Castle County delegated to welcome and escort the old General. It is said that James Rogers lent the barouche in which La Fayette rode. A wooden arch, built across the Philadelphia turnpike, at the line where Pennsylvania and Delaware meet, handsomely bedecked with flowers, a festooned Revolutionary flag and a portrait of General Washington, displayed the legend "Delaware Welcomes La Fayette." There, accompanied by a troop of horse and about 200 civilians, the Committee welcomed the Nation's honoured guest, and thence attended him throughout his visit, taking leave of him at his crossing the line into Maryland.

James Rogers was concerned with everything touching the welfare of Delaware. As early as 1800 there had been attempts to establish a public library in New Castle. In 1812 the New Castle Library Company was organised by James Rogers, James Black and other public-spirited citizens and duly given a charter. The library was housed in the Old Academy until 1899, when it was given its present building on The Green.

As another instance of his interest in whatever might be for the good of the community, in 1833, along with Thomas Janvier, James Couper, Jr., James Smith and Charles I. duPont, James Rogers joined in organising and incorporating the New Castle Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of cotton, woollen and metal goods.

In 1842 James Rogers decided to enlarge the original brick farmhouse at Boothhurst and engaged the Philadelphia architect, John Notman, to carry out the addition. The Victorian Cottage Gothic style was then in high favour and Notman, who was soon to design the Philadelphia Athenaeum, Holy Trinity and St. Clement's Churches, left Boothhurst a visible evidence of the then popular Victorian domestic "Cottage" Gothic taste, a romantic taste that had doubtless been induced by Sir Walter Scott's novels. At a much later date, the old ice-house was converted into a studio, and the old brick house for the farmer, not far from the main house, was changed to accord with its surroundings.

Boothhurst's setting is unique. Standing well back and invisible from the road, the house is surrounded by a dense forest growth of many acres in extent. This unbroken woodland tract dates from very early days, and while not all of it may be virgin timber, there are many very old trees, chiefly white oaks of mighty girth and spread, that were standing before the Swedes landed on Delaware soil.

EDEN PARK

New Castle Avenue (New Castle River Road) and F Street

The house of Eden Park was demolished before 1895 and part of the land where it stood, still called Eden Park, is now a public park or recreation centre for South Wilmington. Nevertheless, it is fitting to include Eden Park in treating of Delaware's historic houses because, in its hey-day, both the house and its occupants were so closely associated with Wilmington history. The accompanying illustration is from a water-colour sketch made about 1806.

The large tract afterwards embraced in Eden Park was originally known as Croxall's Elbow Room and Croxall's Additional Elbow Room. In 1669, during the Duke of York's Government, it belonged to Pieter Claesen or Clawson. In 1765-66 his descendants, Jasper and John Clawson, sold the land to "John Malcolm,

Gentleman." John Malcolm was a Justice of New Castle County, appointed in 1769, 1773 and 1774. Justice Malcolm, it would seem, built the large hipped-roof house and called the place Monckton Park.

In 1780 Justice Malcolm sold the estate to George Haynes, then of Philadelphia, "late of the Island of St. Eustatia." Haynes made Monckton Park his summer home. He is remembered for his solicitude about setting up milestones in New Castle County and for his exceeding fastidiousness. Every night, it is said, he would polish the silver buttons on his coat and waistcoat and then carefully cover them with tissue paper to keep them from getting tarnished by the night air.

Haynes sold Monckton Park to his friend Robert Morris in 1783. The deed, recorded in 1786, transfers "280 acres heretofore called and known by the name of Monckton Park, now called and known by the name of Eden Park." Robert Morris, apparently, was responsible for the change of name. On August 26, 1791, Robert Morris sold the estate, now containing 333 acres, to Louis Philippe, Comte de Ségur. Whether Louis Philippe ever lived at Eden Park is not definitely known.

On September 13, 1804, the Comte de Ségur sold Eden Park to Pierre Marie Joseph Bauduy de Belleville, member of a wealthy planter family in Santo Domingo. All these property transfers involved considerable complications because, at that time, foreigners could not legally buy property in Delaware, and the intermediary offices of friends had to be depended upon in effecting the transactions.

Pierre Marie Joseph Bauduy de Belleville was born at Bordeaux, June 10, 1769, when his parents were making one of those sojourns to France, so frequent among planter families in the West Indies. At seventeen Pierre entered the French army as a cavalry lieutenant in Les Chasseurs de Picardie. In 1789 or early in 1790, in view of the threatening political outlook and the growing unrest on the island, his father recalled him to Santo Domingo.

On October 4, 1790, when only a little over twenty-one, Pierre married Therese Jeanne Julienne Le Breton des Chapelles. With violence increasing all about and ruin staring them in the face, the parents on both sides insisted that the young couple seek safety in flight to the United States.

They took passage on a small schooner belonging to Stephen Girard, bound for Philadelphia. Coming up the Delaware the boat touched at New Castle. "The site attracted Pierre's eye so he asked the captain to let him land there and was put ashore." Told that at Wilmington, nearby, there was already a colony of French émigrés, he settled there and was soon followed by other refugees, among them the bride's family and, not long after, from Santo Domingo, the Garesché lads who were some years hence to become Bauduy's sons-in-law.

On arriving at Wilmington, 1791, Bauduy found himself in straitened circumstances and lost no time in seeking some means of support until, as he hoped, he could retrieve something from his estate in Santo Domingo. He was talented and versatile and amongst his accomplishments was painting. He painted not only portraits and miniatures but did not disdain orders to paint signs for shops and inns. For one carriage shop he painted a sign, showing Phaeton driving the chariot of the sun, with such verve and skill that it attracted the attention of President Washington as he was passing through Wilmington. When his Excellency asked the name of the refugee artist, he exclaimed, "Ah, these French, they are not too proud to work!" Bauduy had also considerable capacity in architectural matters and, by 1798, had designed the Town Hall of Wilmington.

By 1801 or 1802, Bauduy had retrieved some of his Santo Domingo estate and was affluent enough to take an active part in business and industry. It was largely through his efforts that E. I. duPont de Nemours in 1802 chose the banks of the Brandywine for his gunpowder-making enterprise. In fact, Bauduy helped to finance the undertaking to the extent of $18,000 and became a partner in the duPont company. He figured not a little in public affairs and it was in great measure through his exertions that St. Peter's Catholic Church was built.

When he moved into Eden Park in 1804, Bauduy found fresh objects for his energies in agriculture and sheep-raising. Both E. I. duPont and Bauduy imported merino sheep from Spain and Bauduy also got a

Spanish shepherd from the Pyrenees to tend the Eden Park flock. Mr. duPont imported the famous merino ram Don Pedro and had a wooden image of him made. Bauduy had a pair of wooden rams fashioned at the same time and set them atop the gate posts at Eden Park. The Eden Park flock was not a success. Pastured on marshy land, the sheep were stricken with hoof-rot.

In 1813 Bauduy's only son, Ferdinand, married Victorine duPont but died in 1814. For several years before that there had been increasing tension between Bauduy and Mr. duPont, and, in 1815, the duPonts bought out Bauduy's interest in the duPont firm. Bauduy then began the manufacture of gunpowder at Eden Park in 1816, although some family letters would seem to indicate he had been making it, or at least experimenting with it, earlier.

In 1809, Vital Marie Garesché had married Mimika Louise Bauduy, and his younger brother, Jean Pierre Garesché, had married Cora Mary Bauduy in 1813, the same year as the marriage of her brother, Ferdinand, with Victorine duPont.

The Gareschés duRocher were an old Huguenot family from Sanintonge. They, like the Bauduys, had been planters in Santo Domingo and, like the Bauduys, had fled to Wilmington when Vital Marie and Jean Pierre were sixteen and fourteen respectively. The boys had been educated first at St. John's College, Annapolis, and afterwards in Wilmington. After they became Bauduy's sons-in-law their lives were centred at Eden Park.

Whatever changes and additions Bauduy may have made to his home at Eden Park, the house, it would seem, was never large enough for the generous hospitality of its master. What with aunts, uncles, cousins and old family friends coming for protracted visits, some of the visits apparently bordered on permanent residence, the house was generally full to capacity. It must have been when Jean Pierre Garesché took Cora Mary Bauduy, to wife or very soon afterward, that Pierre Bauduy designed nearby Swanwyck in the Regency manner for the newly-married couple.

In 1819 Bauduy's finances were in a critical condition and he removed to Cuba, where he had sugar and coffee plantations. He left his trusted son-in-law, Jean Pierre Garesché, to settle his business obligations and to carry on the gunpowder-making at Eden Park. Subsequently, at just what date is uncertain, Garesché moved into Eden Park and lived there until he sold the place some years later.

Eventually the Lobdell Car Wheel Company bought the property, razed the house, and sold about 13½ acres to the City of Wilmington for what is now the public recreation centre called Eden Park.

The original wooden rams on the gate posts had holes in their backs into which oil was poured at intervals to feed the wood and prevent rotting. At last, however, they disintegrated, and Francis V. duPont replaced them by facsimilies moulded in cement. They are still there, the sole visible reminders of a once great house and its occupants, who played a noteworthy role in the story of Wilmington.

SWANWYCK

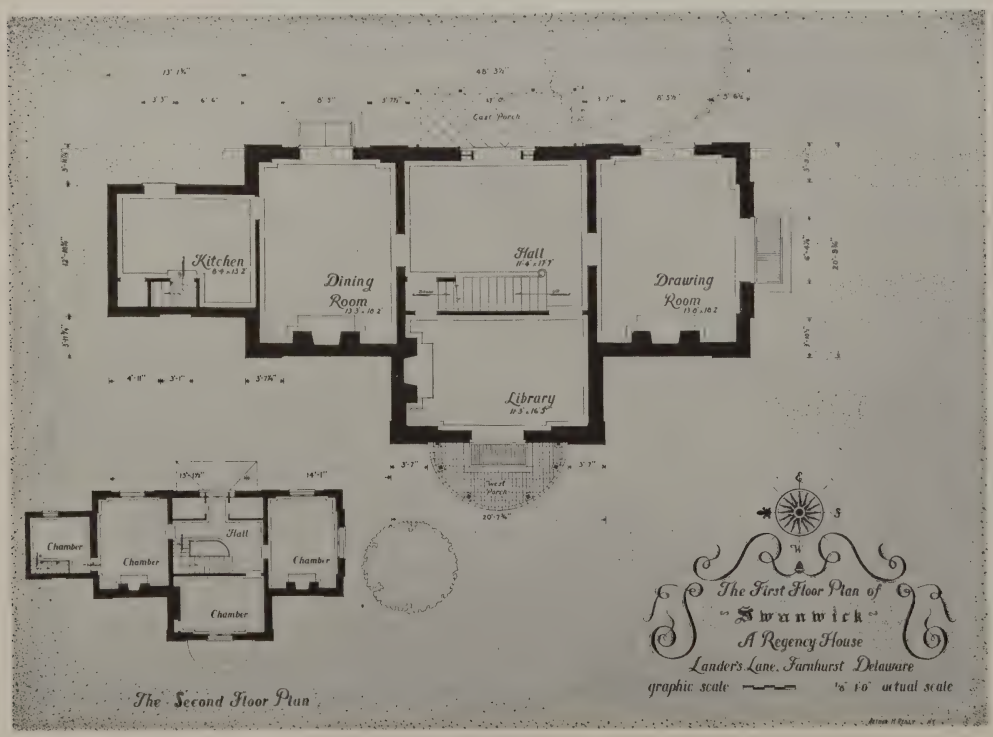
Stoeckle's Lane, just north of old River Road to New Castle

Swanwyck, at Farnhurst, just north of New Castle, is, or rather was, one of the most distinguished examples of Regency domestic architecture, not only in Delaware but in the whole country. The house is still standing, but so many alterations have been made, along with an addition, that its original aspect is completely lost. For that reason the accompanying illustration is made from a photograph taken thirty-odd years ago when the house, though in a somewhat dilapidated state, was nevertheless intact.

Swanwyck is an admirable instance of the Regency manner's elegant grace expressed in small house design. It is truly an architectural treasure in which Delaware may well take a just pride. It is a two-storey house with a hipped roof, built of brick and coated with stucco in the approved fashion of the day which held the suavity of smooth stucco in high esteem. The kitchen wing, on the north end of the house, is finished with the same meticulous care as the rest of the structure and does not mar the harmony of the composition.



Swanwyck, west end, as designed by Pierre Bauduy.



Ground floor plan of Swanwyck.

The accompanying floor plans, drawn a number of years ago when there was some talk of restoring the house, indicate the unusual but ingenious arrangement of the structure. On the east or main front, looking towards the river, was a verandah with a "bell-flare" or "Chinese pagoda" roof, one of the frequent playful incidentals in the Regency era employed to add interest and sparkle to a composition.

On the west front, a little five-arched portico with a flattish "saucer-dome" top sheltered an entrance to the library. All the windows downstairs were of the "French-casement" type extending all the way to the floor. A "wall-of-Troy" pattern, composed of a succession of small cast-iron units, adorns the "high-waisted" belt course. The position of the belt course, and the low broad dimensions of the upstairs windows, together stress the horizontal accent of the mass. The slightly countersunk planes of the walls contribute to the symmetrical balance of the entire structure.

Apparently, the design of Swanwyck was all very simple. Actually, it was very subtle. All the downstairs fireplaces had black marble mantels of simple pattern. Beyond that, it would be impossible to say how the interiors had looked originally. When the measurements were made for the floor plans, the house was in too dilapidated a state to visualise properly the pristine appearance of the rooms. We know how much dependence was placed on the use of bright colours in the Regency era, and there can be little doubt that this resource was employed at Swanwyck.

Francis McIntire, an architect who was deeply interested when there was a possibility of restoring Swanwyck to its first estate, wrote, "it is a house of unique architectural interest. The design is of the greatest simplicity . . . what the designer attempted has achieved a degree of perfection rarely attained, and far in excess of that of any other old house in this country. That is a blunt statement, but after many years of deliberation of the qualities of old houses I feel that it can be made with absolutely no equivocation." This tribute was well deserved.

The foregoing detailed description of Swanwyck is based on its condition thirty-odd years ago when the photographs were taken. Now, all is sadly altered. The designer would scarcely recognise the house. The "saucer-dome" portico of the west front has disappeared. The full-length windows have been blocked up. Additions have been made with little regard for the erstwhile character of the structure. Little remains to recall the beauty that once graced the spot.

In default of documentary evidence regarding the exact date at which Swanwyck was built, there is only obvious probability to depend upon. Jean Pierre Garesché married Cora Marie Bauduy in 1813. Pierre Bauduy left Eden Park and went to live in Cuba in 1819. Pierre Bauduy, therefore, must have designed Swanwyck for his daughter and son-in-law at some time between 1813 and 1819.

Pierre Bauduy had designed Wilmington's Old Town Hall in 1798, but by 1815, when he designed the Bank of Delaware, he was thoroughly conversant with the Graeco-Roman or Regency manner and able to use it with admirable skill and judgement. Knowing the chronically crowded state of the house at Eden Park, it seems likely that Pierre Bauduy designed Swanwyck near the earlier date to give Cora Marie and Jean Pierre an household of their own. In any event, his design for Swanwyck merits enduring esteem from all students of American domestic architecture.

ASHLEY

Newport Pike

Ashley, on the Newport Pike about two miles south of Wilmington, is the off-spring of Glynrich. Ashton Richardson, who built Ashley in 1804, was the son of Richard Richardson and was born at Glynrich. Glynrich, of 1765, supplied the precedent and for Ashley, of 1804.

Like Glynrich, mid-way up the slope, Ashley, at the top of the rise, is a five-bay two-storey-and-attic structure, with a central hall between generous-sized rooms on each side of it, and a commodious service wing. Ashton Richardson wished a large comfortable house of the kind he was used to, a fruit of the Georgian tradition, albeit Georgian reduced to very simple terms to suit Quaker preference.



Glynrich, Old Mill House, built *circa* 1723.



Glynrich, the house built in 1765.

The points of difference were that Ashley is built of bricks, made on the premises; the service wing, set back a few feet, is on the same axis with the main body of the house, instead of in the rear, at a right angle; from end to end, the roof had a balustraded "captain's walk"; the east front had a verandah of consistent pattern, overlooking the garden; and there is a general refining of line, for which subtlety we can doubtless thank the contracting architect-carpenter who had sensed the spirit of the incipient Regency or Federal manner.

Although Ashton Richardson built Ashley in 1804, he was not married until 1807. It is said that his friends rallied him for building a big house while still a bachelor. To this he answered, "You must get the cage ready before you catch the bird."

Ashley calls to mind no momentous historic event, it is true, but the house is entitled to recognition as an historical factor indicative of the early nineteenth-century cultural background. The home of a normal and substantial Quaker family, who consistently filled their role in the social scheme of the period, it remained in possession of the Richardsons until January 3, 1899. Ashley is now the headquarters of the local Y.M.C.A.

GLYNRICH

Newport Pike

In 1669, under the Duke of York's Government, Governour Lovelace confirmed the patent to a tract of land on the Christina River to three joint owners, Andries Andriessen, Broer Sinex and Walraven Jansen. The tract included the lower part of Mill Creek and its junction with the Christina. It was an ideal spot for colonisation, "a navigable stream, Mill Creek was then navigable for small craft, tributary to the Christina-Delaware system, which also provided a source of water-power." Well before the end of the seventeenth century Arnoldus de Lagrange had joined the Andriessen-Sinex-Walraven syndicate and a grist mill had been built on Mill Creek. Although each member of this combination had his own particular tract, they had common rights in the mill.

Several John Richardsons enter into the stories of old Delaware houses. The first John Richardson in New Castle County came from England, soon after the middle of the seventeenth century, and established himself in New Castle. He was a merchant, a capable and successful business man, and an outstanding citizen esteemed by his contemporaries. He was an active member of the Society of Friends and the Quakers at New Castle met at his house until they built a Meeting House. He was one of the Justices of the New Castle Court and, in 1697, under the Penn Government, was elected a member of the Assembly for New Castle County.

John Richardson was not blind to the potential commercial and agricultural value of the north side of the Christina, and in 1687 began to buy land there from de Lagrange and others. By 1703 he was one of the principal landowners there. While buying the de Lagrange holdings he had bought de Lagrange's one-third interest in the grist mill, the other two-thirds being retained by Walraven and Sinex. But Richardson was a merchant, not a farmer, and he kept on living in New Castle until his death in 1710.

In 1704, six years before his father's death, the second John Richardson had married Anna Ashton and the young couple had gone to live on the banks of the Christina, possibly in the house where de Lagrange had lived. By 1723 John, the second, had bought the Walraven and Sinex mill rights and had built a brick mill house near the main road.

The second John's business ventures went far beyond getting possession of a water-powered grist mill. Helped by his sons, he built wharves and storehouses at the landing-place on the Christina near where Middleboro Road met the river. He engaged in foreign trade, especially with the West Indies. There he found a ready and profitable market for the grain, lumber, staves and flour he exported. He brought back cargoes of sugar, molasses, rum and salt which he disposed of with equal advantage. Besides the rich returns brought by his brigantines *Sally* and *Fox*, and his sloop the *Lark*, his broad farmlands and orchards

added substantially to his means. All his undertakings paid handsomely. He has been called a modern Midas. Everything he touched turned to gold. When he died, in 1755, he was a very wealthy man.

With John Richardson had lived his unmarried son, Richard, who inherited the mill property, along with a goodly share of his father's estate. He moved into the old brick Mill House, built close to the mill about 1723, and took his younger sister Jane to live with him and preside over his household while he devoted himself to milling. This domestic arrangement did not last very long, for about 1766, Jane Richardson became the bride of Dr. John McKinley who was later the first Governor or "President" of the State of Delaware.

Richard became engaged to Sarah Tatnall, the daughter of Edward Tatnall and sister of Joseph Tatnall, then one of Delaware's wealthiest citizens. For her, he built the big stone house on the hill overlooking the mill, the house that came to be known as Glynrich. Richard, then forty-six, and Sarah, twenty-one, were married in 1766 and moved into what was said to be "the biggest house yet seen in this part of rural New Castle County."

It was not only "the biggest" but also one of the first houses in New Castle County to be built with a central hall and five symmetrically-placed openings in both storeys of the front, according to the Georgian precedent so generally followed in the eighteenth century. Glynrich was "Quaker Georgian" in expression; Georgian, externally reduced to functional requirements. The interior woodwork is good and accords with orthodox Georgian principles, but its manner, while elegant, is very restrained. That sight-seers "came on foot from Newport" to gaze at this "architectural wonder" shows how strongly the contrast between Georgianism and the earlier mode, well exemplified by the old brick Mill House of 1723, only a few yards away, impressed the public. The only external defacements Glynrich has suffered are the Victorian verandah across the front and the addition of three oversized dormers.

In 1777 American troops were stationed at various points in New Castle County to oppose the British forces advancing from the Head of Elk. Some of the soldiers were encamped on the grounds of Glynrich. The Continentals did not like Quakers and, by way of a prank, "threw chunks of fat pork from the rations into the eye of the millstone saying that 'the mill wanted grease,' which, of course, spoiled the flour." Richard Robinson wisely offered the commanding officer a bed in his house. This kept the troops away at night and prevented "their further tormenting the pacifist and his family."

Richard Robinson died in 1797, but four generations of Robinsons lived in the house until 1887, when it became the property of the Honorable Henry C. Conrad, who bestowed the name Glynrich.

ALRICHS HOUSE

At Marine Terminal, Wilmington

Down at Wilmington's Marine Terminal, perched on a slight embankment beside the road, is an old house, part brick and part frame. It is near the marker set up to indicate the site of the old Crane Hook Church. The little wooden dwelling, with its later brick enlargement, is the only visible reminder left still standing of a man who played a conspicuous role in Delaware's early history, Peter Alrichs.

The oldest part of the house is a one-and-a-half-storey log structure covered with weatherboarding. It is reputed to date from the latter part of the seventeenth century. Of that there is no certainty. There can be no doubt, however, of its very early date, certainly not later than the first few years of the eighteenth century. All the details of construction and woodwork confirm the period.

The brick enlargement of 1785, the date appears in black headers on the north wall, is a three-bay, two-storey-and-attic structure. On the north wall the "S"-face of an iron tie-rod through the chimney, and the letters "L" and "A", are the initials of the Alrichs brothers who once owned the property jointly.

Peter Alrichs, the nephew of Jacob Alrichs, the Dutch Vice-Director of New Amstel, first appeared in public employ in 1659 under D'Hinoyossa, who succeeded to the Vice-Directorship on the death of Jacob Alrichs. D'Hinoyossa sent Peter Alrichs to take charge of the colony at Hoornkill.

In 1664, when the Duke of York's Government replaced Dutch rule, D'Hinoyossa's property was confiscated. Also, the land holdings of Peter Alrichs were confiscated. Governour Nicolls, however, treated Alrichs leniently and he eventually regained his confiscated lands. One of the restored possessions was an extensive tract along the Delaware just below the mouth of the Christina River. This land, under purchase from the Indians and a warrant from the Dutch authorities, Alrichs had acquired in 1663, while the Dutch still ruled the South River. This was the land on which the Alrichs house now stands.

In 1672, when New Castle was made a "Corporacon by the name of a Balywick," for the better government of the town, Captain Edmund Cantwell became High Sheriff of New Castle County, with Peter Alrichs in New Castle as Bailiff or "Chief Magistrate for town and river."

When the Dutch seized New Castle again, August 8, 1673, Governour Anthony Colve in New York, again New Amsterdam, appointed Peter Alrichs Deputy-Governour of "lands on the west side of the Delaware."

In 1674, when New Castle was returned to English rule, Sir Edmund Andros appointed Captain Edmund Cantwell again High Sheriff of New Castle and Delaware. Peter Alrichs held no office. He had been an offensive partisan and was out of favour. Nevertheless, he held on and seems gradually to have regained the good graces of the authorities for, in July, 1678, he was one of the Justices, along with Jean Paul Jacquet and Gerret Otto, at a special Court in New Castle to deal with a rampageous Swedish couple who had not "the feare of God before their eye" and forgot "all Civility and the Respect due unto the Court and Justices, who so nearly Represent the p^{r}son of o^{r} soueraigne Lord, the King."

In October, 1682, when the people at New Castle took an oath of allegiance to Penn's Government, Peter Alrichs name headed the list of subscribers thereto. In 1683 he was a member of the Assembly. His rehabilitation seems to have been complete for, in 1686, 1687 and 1688, along with John Cann, he was a member of Council for New Castle County and again, in 1689, with Johannes de Haes, and yet again, in 1697, with Richard Halliwell, one of the most esteemed citizens of New Castle. The land along the Delaware just below the mouth of the Christina, first granted to Peter Alrichs in 1663, confiscated, and later restored to his ownership, came into the possession of Lucas and Sigfriedus Alrichs on the death of their father, Peter Sigfriedus Alrichs, in 1764. In 1780 they divided the property, Lucas taking 110 acres on the Delaware River and Sigfriedus taking 77 acres, including the homestead.

In 1785 Sigfriedus built the brick addition already described. His son, Peter Sigfriedus Alrichs, succeeded him and died in 1861. The house now belongs to the City of Wilmington. For many years past it has been occupied by an employee of one of the nearby manufacturing establishments. He and his wife have kept it in good condition and have made a tidy little garden in front of it. This landmark of Delaware history deserves to be preserved.

LONG HOOK FARM

South of Christina River at Wilmington on west side of U.S. Route 13, 1.1 miles

Just south of the bridge over the Christina River, on the right hand side of the highway is part of a tract of land once called Long Hook. On it is a little old house, widely-believed to have been built by Jean Paul Jacquet, the first Vice-Director, 1655-1657, of the Colony on the Delaware under the Dutch Government.

As a matter of actual fact, the house that Jean Paul Jacquet built about 1660, after he had been superseded at Fort Casimir, New Castle, vanished long ago. It was about a mile east of Long Hook Farm and stood where the Third Street Bridge now spans the Christina. There was then no bridge and Jacquet kept the ferry.

Nevertheless, at Long Hook Farm there is, at the north end of the present extensive structure, a very small old dwelling, built on Jacquet land, in all likelihood late in the seventeenth century. But the thousands who pass the place daily could scarcely be expected to recognise the existence of this ancient Dutch dwelling, incorporated as it is in successive later additions and under the present disguise of a modern restaurant



Alrichs House, Marine Terminal, Wilmington. The frame wing at the left is the original house; the large addition was made in 1785.



Banning House, 809 South Broom Street, Wilmington.

and motel. The seventeenth-century end of the house is of plank construction. There is a great brick fireplace and an oven. The ceiling height is only six feet, five inches.

In 1763, Peter Jacquet, a descendant of Jean Paul, added a much larger brick structure at the south end of the little original building. On the south end of this brick addition his initials, and the date 1763, appeared in black headers. These are now painted over. About 1860, further additions were made and a third storey was put on, a Victorian contribution to the ensemble that could hardly be called an improvement.

In the course of nearly three hundred years, so many changes, both exterior and interior, have taken place that the original characteristics of both the seventeenth and eighteenth-century structures have been either obscured or obliterated to such an extent that it is well-nigh impossible to visualise what they once were. It would be fruitless, therefore, to go into a necessarily hypothetical discussion of structure and plans.

The chief consideration now lies in the historic associations attached to Long Hook Farm. From the seventeenth century onward the Jacquet family has had a reputation for hospitality. In the *Journal* of Dankers and Sluyter, when these Dutch Labadist missionaries visited Jacquet, they commented with approval on a cordial the Jacquets distilled from "medlar" plums which was "even better than French brandy."

The Dankers and Sluyter visit, of course, was at the house Jean Paul Jacquet had built on the old River Road to New Castle, but from 1763, when Peter Jacquet built his big brick addition to the little house at Long Hook Farm, hospitality seems to have been ever-present at the place.

When Major Peter Jacquet, 1755-1834, the son of Peter Jacquet the builder, was master of Long Hook Farm, both General Washington and the Marquis de la Fayette were welcomed and entertained there. Major Jacquet, who had served with distinction in the Continental Army from 1776 to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, at the close of the War became a gentleman farmer on his paternal lands. He not only took pride in beautifying the place and planting trees, but delighted to open his doors to all war veterans, whether humble or exalted. He likewise extended his unfailing benevolence to all comers, old and young alike, even children and birds which, it is said, used to eat from his hands. The Jacquet family at last sold Long Hook Farm about the middle of the nineteenth century.

BANNING HOUSE

809 South Broom Street, Wilmington

The builder of 809 South Broom Street was Joseph Robinson, a prominent citizen in the Wilmington of his day and one of the organisers of the "Bank of Wilmington and Brandywine", as it was then entitled, in April, 1810.

He built the house on Broom Street in 1812, but, some time afterwards, sold it to James T. Bird, the father of General Charles Bird and of Levi C. Bird, long the "recognised criminal lawyer in Delaware." In 1861 the Birds sold the house to Henry G. Banning. Banning, more than any of the other owners, seems to have strongly attached his personality to the place during his residence of forty-five years.

Born in Talbot County, Maryland, in March, 1816, Henry Banning was the son of Freeborn Banning, an officer in the United States Navy, and of Sarah Geddes, the daughter of a British naval officer who had embraced the American cause at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Coming to Wilmington as a young man, he entered into the business life of the city and soon won general recognition and esteem for his integrity and clear-headed business capacity. He was also known for his public spirit and sense of civic responsibility. When the Fame Hose Company, one of the earliest fire companies in the southern part of Wilmington, was organised in 1839, its members included some of the most substantial business men of the city. Henry Banning was near the head of the list. The company maintained only a hose carriage until a steam fire-engine, some years later, was added to its equipment. Before the advent of the steam fire-engine, members of volunteer fire companies responded to fire alarm calls armed with long leather water-buckets, the kind now carefully preserved as historic mementos. Membership in a volunteer fire company meant arduous physical labour for all hands when a fire broke out.



Old Swedes (Holy Trinity) Church, Seventh and Church Streets, Wilmington. Built 1698.



Interior of Old Swedes Church.

In 1872 Henry Banning was elected to the Presidency of the Bank of Delaware. The first public bank organised in Wilmington, the Bank of Delaware was incorporated in 1795. Henry Banning was its fifth President and held that office for thirty-three years. Tenure of office for so long a period was a tribute not only to his ability and wisdom but also the general regard his personality inspired. He had the grace of courtly manners and his death, at the age of ninety years, took away from the life of the city one of the last surviving gentlemen of the old school.

In 1847 Henry Banning had married Emily Eschenburg, a great-granddaughter of Caesar A. Rodney. Mrs. Banning was always deeply concerned in perpetuating amongst their descendants the memory of early Americans, both women and men, who had played their several parts in the Colonial period.

Thanks to Mrs. Banning's intimate association with these historical and genealogical matters, the house became a landmark that will always be cherished by a nation-wide organisation. In the south parlour, with Mrs. Banning as hostess of the occasion, on May 19th, 1892, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America was formed. Representatives from Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the District of Columbia were present, and the Constitution adopted provided that State organisations could be formed in each of the Original Thirteen States and in the District of Columbia. Five years later an amendment allowed societies to be formed in other States. Mrs. Banning was President of the Delaware Society of Colonial Dames from the formation until her death in 1897. During those years she was also a Vice-President of the national body.

The house, a two-storey-and-attic, five-bay brick structure, coated with stucco, is much larger than most of the dwellings of its day. It is two full-sized rooms deep on each side of a central hall. The depth of the building accounts for the gentle slope of the roof. The railed deck, between the pairs of chimneys at each end, relieves the austerity of an otherwise severely-plain mass. Built at a time when the Regency or Federal manner was beginning to stress the quality of restraint, the Banning House is an example of a "Quaker Georgian" exterior reduced to the lowest terms.

The Banning House is now the Rectory of St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Church.

OLD SWEDES CHURCH (HOLY TRINITY)

Southeast corner, Seventh and Church Streets, Wilmington

Holy Trinity Church, generally known as Old Swedes, is the strongest visible link between the Swedish settlement at Fort Christina in 1638 and present-day Wilmington. It is a building of which any city might well be proud, and its history is a perpetual incentive to the preservation of lofty ideals.

From 1697, when the Reverend Eric Bjork came from Sweden to minister to the congregation at Crane Hook, he bent his efforts to the building of a worthy church structure at this spot. On May 28, 1698, the first foundation stones were "laid all around about one foot deep." John Yard, of Philadelphia, assisted by his sons, Joseph, William and John, contracted to do the masonry for £86 "in silver money" and "sufficient Meat, Drink, Washing and Lodging."

In April following, the "glazier from Holland" came, and by the 28th of that month the gable ends were up and "all the laths nailed to the arch of the roof." By unremitting perseverance the building was finished and the Consecration took place on Trinity Sunday, June 4, 1699. The church was then a plain oblong building of native grey stone, with a brick floor, shingled roof, and jerkin-heads or hooded gable ends. There was no tower, no belfry. Neither were there porches nor a gallery. The stone masonry is an enduring witness to the sound craftsmanship of the masons who laid it. The mortar-joints are galletted.

About 1750, the large, arched stone south porch was added. The gallery, with outside stairs at the south porch, came in 1774. In 1802 the brick tower was built at the west end, and in the cupola on top was placed the bell.

Then, about 1840, in the wave of "improvement" that overwhelmed many a fine old church throughout the country, the gallery stair was placed inside. The old pews were removed, except in the gallery, and

wooden benches were put in their place. A wooden floor was put down over the original brick paving. This vandalism was fortunately remedied later.

In 1899 Old Swedes was completely restored for its bicentennial celebration. The gallery stair was replaced in the south porch, the wooden floor was removed, and the old pews were put back on the original brick pavement.

Pastor Bjork returned to Sweden in 1714, but was followed by other Swedish ministers who laboured faithfully in the field Pastor Bjork had prepared. One of these pastors was the Reverend Israel Acrelius, to whom posterity is indebted for his research and his invaluable writings on the history of New Sweden. The last Swedish pastor was the Reverend Lawrence Girelius. It was during his pastorate that the service and preaching came to be part of the time in English and part of the time in Swedish. Many of the congregation no longer understood Swedish. When the Swedish pastors were withdrawn, the Swedish churches in Delaware and Pennsylvania came voluntarily under the care and ministrations of the Episcopal Church.

Old Swedes might well be called the "Westminster Abbey" of Wilmington. Within the church, and under the shadow of its walls, are buried not only countless seventeenth and eighteenth-century Swedes and their descendants, but many of the foremost people of Delaware who had no immediate connection with the parish.

To the southeast of the church is a French portion of the churchyard where many of the refugees from Santo Domingo are buried, the Bauduys, the Hamons, the Gareschés and Verriers. One might add a long list of statesmen and men of military fame, from the seventeenth century onward. There are many more, like the accomplished, beautiful and unfortunate Mary Vining, who lie in unmarked graves.

Old Swedes Church is by no means merely a museum, however fascinating the building and its varied contents may be to visitors. It is a very much alive parish church actively ministering to the requirements of present-day Wilmingtonians.

Nevertheless, it is worth while to mention that the original altar is contained within the present marble altar. Also, the altar-cloth that appears in the illustration was given to Old Swedes by the Ambassador from Sweden in 1950 on behalf of King Gustav V. The black walnut pulpit, with sounding board overhead, fashioned in 1698, is perhaps the "oldest church pulpit in the United States."

A square block of diagonally-set bricks, in the central aisle, was arranged to be lifted out at Christmas time to receive the Christmas Tree. An early eighteenth-century walnut chest with ball feet standing in the church, was made to hold the church moneys. Oil portraits of Pastor Acrelius, Pastor Eric Bjork, and Pastor Tranberg hang in the Vestry-room. The Bjork portrait was the gift, in 1899, of the Great Copperberg Mining District Joint Stock Company, of Fahlun, in Sweden. The Fahlun Company, in tribute to Pastor Bjork, had sent the church a silver chalice and paten in 1718. This chalice and paten are still used every year on Trinity Sunday.

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

The block bounded by Washington, West, Fourth and Fifth Streets, Wilmington

The severely plain two-storey and broad-gabled red brick Friends' Meeting House in Wilmington is the second Meeting House to occupy the site, the third Meeting House to be erected by the Wilmington Friends.

In 1738, the first Quaker meetings in Wilmington were held in the house of William Shipley until the earliest Meeting House, a brick structure on the east side of West Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, was ready for occupancy. During the ensuing ten years the Society grew rapidly and many Friends from New Castle and Newark frequently attended the Wilmington Meeting.

By 1748, a larger Meeting House was built on the west or opposite side of West Street to accommodate the greatly increased attendance. Standing on the present site, the new Meeting House together with the adjacent burying-ground, took up the whole city block bounded by West, Washington, Fourth and Fifth Streets. It was a substantial, foursquare brick building, forty-eight by forty-eight feet and is described as having, "a pyramid-shaped roof, whose truncated peak was surmounted by a little square tower through

which passed the chimney." This was only another way of saying that the new Meeting House had a hipped roof of steep pitch. It was evidently a striking composition of marked character. The first Meeting House across West Street was used for school purposes.

The 1748 Meeting House, with its "pyramid-shaped roof," served the Wilmington Meeting's needs for somewhat more than half a century, but by 1816 it proved too small. It was then demolished and the present ample-sized brick Meeting House, finished in 1817, was built on the same site.

When the Hicksite division amongst the Quakers occurred in 1827, the Meeting House fell to the Hicksites and the Orthodox Friends built another meeting house at Ninth and Tatnall Streets. Now that the division is healed, the Meeting House is a gathering point for all members of the Society of Friends. In the burying-ground surrounding the Meeting House are the graves of many who, in their day and generation, have faithfully and unselfishly laboured for the good of both City and State. Not the least illustrious in this goodly company is John Dickinson.

OLD TOWN HALL

Market Street below Sixth, east side of street, Wilmington

The Old Town Hall of Wilmington, now home of the Historical Society of Delaware was built in 1798. The design was furnished by Pierre Bauduy, a rich refugee from Santo Domingo. He had fled during the slave uprising there and had taken refuge in Wilmington, as had a number of other refugees. Wilmington, in fact, harboured a little colony of French refugees.

Bauduy was a versatile man and a talented painter, but he was not a professional architect. Like other versatile men in eighteenth-century America, possessed of an educated architectural taste, he could indicate sufficiently by a sketch or two what kind of building he had in mind, and then leave it to a capable master-builder to carry out in finished form the general conception suggested. Master-builders had access to the many admirable architectural books published in the eighteenth century, giving abundant details to work from. Not a few of our finest eighteenth-century buildings were produced in exactly this manner, by co-operation between the master-builder and the originator of the idea, oftentimes with suggestions and criticisms from the latter during the process of construction. An excellent instance of what this mode of procedure could achieve is the Read House in New Castle.

To finish the Town Hall there came "from Uroupe" a clock, and a bell for the belfry, both presented by that leading citizen, Joseph Tatnall. The bell is now in the museum of the Historical Society. The clock, now run by electricity, is still in place and keeps good time.

One of the first ceremonies at the Old Town Hall was the forming of a procession to commemorate the death of General Washington in 1799. In 1801 there was a public dinner to celebrate the election of Thomas Jefferson. In 1812 there were town meetings to plan the defence of the Borough. In 1824 General La Fayette was tendered a dinner there. In 1832 the Chief Burgess and Borough Council turned over the government of Wilmington to the Mayor and Council of the newly-chartered City. On the front steps, Richard H. Bayard, the first Mayor, and his successors welcomed distinguished guests.

When vacated in 1916 for the new Public Building on Rodney Square, the Old Town Hall for a short time became headquarters for the Red Cross. In 1917 the Historical Society of Delaware bought the Old Town Hall and the Society's invaluable collections are now housed there in a fire-proof annex.

OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Park Drive at foot of West Street, Wilmington

The Old First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, now preserved on the Brandywine Park Drive at the foot of West Street, originally stood on the east side of Market Street between Ninth and Tenth, surrounded



Old First Presbyterian Church. Now on the Brandywine Park Drive, Wilmington.



Old Town Hall, Market Street below Sixth, Wilmington. Headquarters of the Historical Society of Delaware.

by its burying ground. The Church property extended to King Street on the east. The deed for the property, bought from Timothy Stidham, dated December 30, 1737, gives the price as "three pounds of lawful current money of the government of New Castle." The Wilmington Institute Free Library now stands on what was once a part of the Church burying ground. The present building was dedicated May 5, 1923.

The old Church was built in 1740. It is a rectangular gambrel-roofed brick structure, with round-arched doors and windows on the ends and sides. The cornice and the eaves of the lower slopes of the gambrel, carried as a penthouse across the ends of the building, impart a peculiarly sturdy emphasis.

It was "fashioned within after the prevailing style of Church architecture of that day. The desk of the pulpit was elevated to a level with the curve of the ceiling, a large sounding-board being placed above. The seats were commodious with high straight backs." We may be sure that the current amenities of neat panelling and other woodwork were duly considered.

This building served the congregation until 1839-40, when a new and larger structure was erected. The old Church building was then adjusted to new use as a Sunday-school and lecture room. In the meantime, the British Army had used the old Church as a hospital after the Battle of the Brandywine. It had also been used as a school. By 1878, when it was no longer needed for school or lecture purposes, the old Church building was leased to the Historical Society of Delaware, which then moved in and continued to occupy it until 1916.

In the course of the varied uses to which the old Church has been put since 1840, interior changes were inevitable, but the alterations were not as extensive as might be expected and it remains a visible and eloquent witness to the architectural spirit of eighteenth-century Wilmington.

In 1919 the old Church was removed to its present site and is now the headquarters of the Delaware Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

BANK OF DELAWARE

Lovering Avenue and Union Street, Wilmington

The Bank of Delaware, the first public bank organised in Wilmington, was incorporated February 9, 1795. Joseph Tatnall was its first President. Its first place of business, at the northwest corner of Fourth and Market Streets, opened its doors August 17, 1795. In 1816 the Bank moved into its new building at the northeast corner of Sixth and Market Streets. This "new building" of 1816 now houses the Delaware Academy of Medicine at the corner of Lovering Avenue and Union Street.

In 1931, when the bank building of 1816 was about to be razed, a number of public-spirited citizens, headed by Mrs. Henry B. Thompson, recognising its great architectural value, raised the necessary funds to remove it to a place safe from the so-called "march of progress." To ensure continued usefulness, as well as the preservation of an historic structure of significant architectural import, it was determined to make the erstwhile bank building the home of the Delaware Academy of Medicine.

The Delaware Academy of Medicine stems from the Medical Society of Delaware, incorporated in 1776, the second oldest State Medical Society in the country. Re-incorporated in 1789 as the "President and Fellows of the Medical Society of Delaware," it finally became in 1930 the Delaware Academy of Medicine, incorporated under the laws of the State "as a non-profit corporation, organised for the sole purpose of fostering interest among its members in medical, scientific, literary and educational activities and rendering service without recompense toward these ends in the State of Delaware." This venerable institution had never before had any permanent headquarters.

Under the direction of Charles C. Cornelius, former Curator of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the 1815-16 bank building was taken down and re-erected on the new site. The moving and re-construction were done "brick by brick" with punctilious exactitude.



Old Bank of Delaware, designed by Pierre Bauduy and built in 1816. Moved to present site in 1931. Now occupied by the Delaware Academy of Medicine.



Gray House, 1307 Market Street, Wilmington.

What the combined efforts of Mrs. Henry B. Thompson and the Society for the Preservation of Delaware Antiquities, a number of public-spirited individuals, and the members of the Academy of Medicine achieved, in spite of the financial depression then prevailing, was the salvation of a veritable gem of Regency architecture second to none in the whole country.

Only four men then working in this part of America could have designed it, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Robert Mills, William Strickland or Pierre Bauduy. Pierre Bauduy it was, that same versatile Santo Domingo refugee who designed Wilmington's Old Town Hall and, for his daughter and son-in-law, Swanwyck. A capable master-carpenter or contractor, of course, put the building into material existence, but it was Bauduy's happy conception that he translated into bricks and stone and mortar.

Dignity, simplicity and restraint characterise the exterior. The brick surface, laid in Flemish-bond closely set, is in sharp contrast with the Flemish-bond of an earlier period, when the wider mortar joints and rougher surface of the bricks themselves gave walls a vigorous texture not compatible with Regency taste, which sought complete suavity of surface.

From the ground up to the hipped roof, every accent employed in this subtle composition contributes to its convincing charm, the recessed entrance loggia with its slender Ionic columns; above it, the Wyatt window, successor of the Palladian window; the countersunk panels; the white stone belt course, widened under window openings; and the white stone lintols with end-blocks and roundels.

The interior has been changed to adapt the building to its new uses. The banking hall has become a lecture hall. The large room above it has become a library, and a recent addition at one side has called for some further changes in the interior of the original structure. Nevertheless, some of the upper rooms remain unchanged and contain wooden mantels of simple but striking design.

Preservation of the early building of the Bank of Delaware, with its adjustment to continued usefulness, points to the wisdom of historic preservation in general.

GRAY HOUSE

1307 Market Street, Wilmington

The large brick house at the southwest corner of Fourteenth and Market Streets is the sole remaining member of a row of four that once filled that side of the square from the Thirteenth Street line to Fourteenth. About 1825, James Price built these four houses for his three sons and one daughter. Joseph received 1301; 1303 was for John; 1305 for Mary, who married Edmund Canby; and 1307 for James E. Elijah Huxley is said to have been the builder.

When these houses were built, the Brandywine flour mills were at the height of prosperity. The Price milling interests were on the south side of the stream and the Lea and Tatnall mills on the north side. It was, therefore, quite appropriate that the houses James Price built for his children should have been on "Brandywine Walk," as that part of Market Street was then called. The one survivor of the group is so close to the entrance of Brandywine Park that it is to be hoped it may permanently escape the so-called "march of progress" that has laid low its three companions.

Belonging to the two-storey-and-attic category, of an ample three-bay width with central hall, this house, like the Kensey Johns Van Dyke house in New Castle, its exact contemporary, is a striking example of the "simplified Regency" town dwelling. In every respect it is instinct with the quiet elegance and generous breadth characteristic of that phase of our domestic architecture.

On each side of the central hall are two spacious rooms and, at the back, there is a kitchen and service wing of adequate size. The roof has been altered and made into gambrel shape, with three dormers that are certainly not reproductions of any dormers that may have been on the original pitched roof. The roof changes were probably made in 1854 when some duPont powder waggons exploded near Fourteenth and Market Streets and the explosion badly damaged all the neighbouring houses.



Derrickson-Bringhurst House, 1801 Market Street, in Brandywine Village, Wilmington.



Tatnall Houses, 1803 and 1807 Market Street. Wilmington. To the rear of 1807 Market Street is the earlier part of the house built by Edward Tatnall.

For many years 1307 Market Street was the home of the highly-esteemed Judge George Gray. The son of Andrew Caldwell Gray, he was born in the Gunning Bedford house in New Castle, May 4, 1840. Carefully educated in New Castle, in 1857 he entered Princeton in the junior year and was graduated with "high standing" two years later when he was nineteen.

He became one of the ablest lawyers of his time, but never sought public office. It was not until 1879, "when for sixteen years he had been before the public as a lawyer," that he became Attorney-General of the State, on appointment by Governor Hall.

At the resignation of Thomas F. Bayard from the United States Senate, the Delaware Legislature elected George Gray to fill Senator Bayard's unexpired term. Then, in 1893, the General Assembly of Delaware unanimously elected him to succeed himself as Senator for the full term, from the ensuing March 4th. Thus he represented Delaware in the United States Senate from January, 1885, to March 4th, 1899.

President Cleveland appointed Senator Gray Chief-Justice of the United States Supreme Court. This appointment, however, was not fulfilled because the Senate group in charge of the Administration's programme insisted that Senator Gray's absence from the Senate would jeopardise the passage of important bills. Senator Gray afterwards served for a long time as Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. It is of interest to note that Senator Gray planted the maple trees on Market and Fourteenth Streets near his house.

DERRICKSON-BRINGHURST HOUSE

1801 Market Street, Wilmington

This five-bay, two-storey-and-attic house, with an extension at the rear, known as the Derrickson-Bringhurst House, was built about 1770 by James Marshall. The well-laid native grey stone masonry is characteristic of the type prevalent in northern Delaware and in the adjacent Chester County of Pennsylvania. Built at about the same time as its two neighbours to the north, number 1803 and the front part of number 1807, has led some to believe that Joseph Tatnall built it. In any event, its forthright plainness is in keeping with the other "Quaker Hill" houses of the same era in Brandywine Village. Although no event of historic moment is connected with it, the house faithfully reflects the culture of its place and period and is entitled to proper consideration and careful preservation for that reason.

Thomas Lea, son-in-law of Joseph Tatnall, and grandfather of former Governor Preston Lea, is known to have lived in the house during his early married life. He was then busily engaged in developing the flour-milling industry nearby on the north side of the Brandywine.

The Derrickson family came into possession of the house about 1836. The first of the family to own the house was Jacob Derrickson, of the third generation from the original Swedish settler of that name. He was a man of considerable wealth and when each of his children was married he bought property for them. The house at Eighteenth and Market Streets was bought for his daughter, Martha Derrickson, and presented to her on the occasion of her marriage to Amor Hollingsworth Harvey. Mrs. Bringhurst, a great-granddaughter of Jacob Derrickson, inherited the property; hence the name Bringhurst is attached to the house.

THE TATNALL HOUSES

1803 and 1807 Market Street, Wilmington

These two neighbouring houses on "Quaker Hill" are so inseparably associated in their history that it is best to consider them together. What is now the back-building of number 1807, with windows looking out on Nineteenth Street, dates from well before the middle of the eighteenth century. It was at one time the home of the first Edward Tatnall, who married Elizabeth Pennock, of Chester County, Pennsylvania, and settled in Wilmington in the fore part of the eighteenth century. He is said to have been the first master-carpenter in the town.

Joseph Tatnall, the son of Edward, built the larger part, fronting in Market Street, in 1790, intending, it is said, to live there himself, but gave it to his son Edward on his marriage, and continued to live in number 1803, which he had built in 1770, when he was thirty.

When the original part of number 1807 was built, Nineteenth Street was a lane. This older part of the house is said to have faced the Brandywine and to have overlooked the Tatnall farm. The 1790 addition, facing Market Street, is a two-storey-and-attic structure built of the native grey fieldstone. It is five bays wide with a central hall. The exterior is very plain but the interior was finished with a good deal of elegance, grey marble mantels and excellent woodwork.

Joseph Tatnall built number 1803 for himself in 1770, and it is of virtually the same design as the 1790 part of number 1807, but the interior was somewhat plainer. Both houses, well-built of faultless stone masonry, have been much altered from their erstwhile appearance of sober dignity, especially number 1803, whose alteration has resulted in positive deformity.

Joseph Tatnall, born September 6, 1740, was for nearly forty years a miller on the Brandywine and was not only a successful business man but, through his patriotism and public spirit, impressed himself upon the community. For many years he was one of Wilmington's most influential citizens. He was a pioneer in the building of mills on the north side of the Brandywine. Through energy and perseverance the difficulties of construction in the rocky formation were overcome and, as early as 1764, there were eight mills in successful operation, four on each side of the stream. The four on the north side were Tatnall mills. After his death, the milling business was profitably continued for many years by his son-in-law, Thomas Lea.

Although a Quaker, during the Revolutionary War he gave strong adherence to the cause of independence. It has been said that he risked the destruction of his mills at the hands of some neighbourhood Loyalists bent on malicious mischief. No mills of greater importance than the Tatnall mills existed in the Colonies at that time, and they ground much of the flour for the famishing Continental Army. When Howe landed at the Head of Elk in 1777, to invade Philadelphia, Washington ordered the Brandywine mills to be dismantled to prevent their falling into British hands. The mill-stones were thrown out of gear and some of them were taken several miles away and hidden.

Tatnall was on friendly terms with both Washington and La Fayette and, in the tense period before the Battle of the Brandywine, they are both said to have dined at his house. La Fayette, indeed, is said to have lived there for a very short period. It was at this time that General Anthony Wayne made his headquarters at 1803 Market Street. All the military papers were kept there and General Washington rode over daily from 305 West Street, for consultations.

Indicative of Washington's high regard for Joseph Tatnall is the incident of his surprise visit paid during his Presidency. Pater Patriae, on his way South, had his chariot draw up before number 1803. Learning that the hard-working Quaker was at the mill, instead of letting them send for Tatnall, the President left his chariot standing at the gate and walked to the mill. Miller and unexpected guest walked back together to the house, followed by a crowd of boys, much elated at having a close view of the man whom the people delighted to honour.

How extensive was Joseph Tatnall's milling business may be gathered from the anecdote about his deal with one of the Lloyds of Maryland. When Mr. Lloyd came to sell wheat, Mr. Tatnall agreed to take all he had. Lloyd smiled and said, "Why, sir, my grain will amount to forty thousand dollars." "I will take it," said Tatnall, to Lloyd's great astonishment, and he paid cash for it. Not only had Tatnall built up a highly profitable milling business, but he was also largely engaged in the shipping trade. Through both these enterprises he accumulated a handsome fortune. In 1795, as a prime mover he helped to organise the Bank of Delaware. It was the first public bank established in Wilmington. He was chosen the first President and kept that office till 1802.

Joseph Tatnall recognised the obligation of wealth to render a due measure of public service to the community. In 1791 he was one of the delegates from New Castle County to the State Constitutional Con-

vention, under the Presidency of John Dickinson. In 1798 he was a member of the State House of Representatives, from New Castle County, along with Caesar A. Rodney, Thomas McKean, Nicholas Van Dyke and others. In 1798 also he bought a clock and bell in Europe and presented them to the City of Wilmington for use on the new City Hall, built in that year. He died August 3, 1813.

When General La Fayette visited Wilmington, October 6, 1824, he had the escorting procession halt before the Tatnall houses in order to pay his respects to the family of his deceased friend. Edward Tatnall, accompanied by his young son William, greeted the old General and presented him with a basket of pears from trees Joseph Tatnall had grown and named the "Washington Pear."

ELEUTHERIAN MILLS

Overlooking the Brandywine above the Hagley Museum, Wilmington

When Eleuthère Irénée duPont came to the Brandywine in 1802, he and his family established themselves in a small house already standing on the land purchased from Jacob Broom. On their arrival there, Pierre Bauduy "seems to have insisted on building a new home for the family." That versatile and accomplished San Domingo refugee, who was soon to become the master of Eden Park, had already shown his capacity as an architect by designing Wilmington's Old Town Hall in 1798. He was later to design St. Peter's R. C. Church (Cathedral), Swanwyck and also a new building for the Bank of Delaware, but the house for the family of Eleuthère Irénée duPont was his second contribution to Delaware architecture.

Eleuthère Irénée himself was by no means wanting in either architectural taste or aptitude, as he proved a few years later when he built the Lower House at Louviers for his elder brother, Victor. In the designing and construction of the house he was to live in he did not stand on the side-lines as an uninterested and voiceless spectator. He quite naturally exercised the right of ownership in having his preferences duly respected and embodied in the final result.

In October, 1802, he wrote to his brother-in-law, Charles Dalmas, who was then living in Goodstay, the house at Bergen Point, New Jersey, in which the duPonts had first lived after their arrival in this country from France. In his letter Eleuthère made particular enquiries about the "exact measurements of the terrace, columns and fireplaces in Goodstay."

In his reply, Dalmas makes it quite clear that the information he sends was "not going to be utilised to make a duplicate of Goodstay." Apparently Eleuthère had in mind certain features at Goodstay that were forthwith adapted and incorporated in the east front of his new house on the Brandywine.

The year 1802 was a little early for the Graeco-Roman or Regency manner to have had much effect upon domestic architecture in America and Pierre Bauduy, in his design for the duPont's house, was evidently still thinking along late Middle-Georgian lines.

The result was a two-storey-and-attic structure of five-bay width with central hall and a full two-room depth, built of the native grey stone. Over the attic was a low cockloft, which was but little more than an air space. The generous depth of the main structure made it possible to eliminate the usual ridge of a gabled roof and substitute the slight slopes of an almost flat deck between the pairs of end chimneys. At the north and south ends of the main block are slightly-recessed two-storey-and-attic wings with gabled roofs, one of them probably built a little later than the main structure. The stucco coating of the stone walls, in all likelihood, was added at some time during the first quarter of the nineteenth century when that practice was much in favour. This enumeration of structural features covers the present exterior appearance of the house as seen from the west.

Built on a steep hillside, the east front presents an aspect wholly different from the west front. Because of the sharp descent, the main block is a full three-storey-and-attic structure, with the addition of several tiers of galleries or verandahs that once extended across the entire face of the house, as may be seen from the sketch made by Charles Dalmas in 1806. This sketch fortunately includes the nearby dependencies.



Eleutherian Mills, overlooking the Brandywine. View of west front.



Eleutherian Mills in 1806, sketched by Charles Dalmas. Courtesy of Hagley Museum.

The east front with its tiers of galleries on slender columnar supports seems to have been where Eleuthère duPont definitely took a hand in the design. In the many alterations made to the house since 1806, the galleries and their supports have been changed more than once, but an early painting shows a slender column and capital almost identical with the portico supports that Eleuthère designed for the Lower House at Louviers in 1811, the design of which, according to family tradition, had the blessing of Thomas Jefferson.

After no little worry over securing enough capable workmen to finish construction in a reasonable time, and annoyance at their delays, which sounds very modern, the house was ready for occupancy late in the summer of 1803. Eleuthère Irénée with his family lived there until his death in 1834. Since 1834 not only has the east front undergone considerable changes and replacements, but the interior has so often been altered and re-arranged, sometimes quite drastically, that it would be difficult today to envision the original layout.

The explosion of 1890 badly damaged the house and it remained empty until 1892. After repairs, it then became a club house for duPont workers. About 1903 it was abandoned and remained empty until 1923, when Henry Algernon duPont bought it for his daughter, Mrs. Louise duPont Crowninshield. After renovation, Mrs. Crowninshield occupied the house until her death. By her will Eleuthèrian Mills passed to the Eleuthèrian Mills-Hagley Foundation Inc. and is soon to be open to visitors.

STRAND MILLAS

On Montchanin Road, near south bank of Brandywine Creek, New Castle County

William Gregg came from Scotland in 1682 and, in 1685, had surveyed to him 400 acres in Christiana Hundred, which tract he called Strand Millas. Before his death, in 1687, he built a log house on what is now the estate of Mrs. R. R. M. Carpenter at Montchanin. This log house went to pieces in the course of time, but the land remained in possession of the Gregg family for many years. William Gregg's son John, the same John Gregg who, in 1702 bought the land whereon Ashland Mills now stands, and John's descendants soon acquired extensive land-holdings in the Brandywine Valley.

Not far from the log house, William Gregg's son John, or possibly John's son Samuel, it is not certainly known which, built a substantial stone house of the plentiful Brandywine "granite." This comfortable dwelling the Gregg descendants resolutely held on to and refused to sell, notwithstanding generous and oft-repeated offers from the duPonts who wished to get more land for the powder plant. One day a violent explosion at the powder works rocked the Greggs' house and badly cracked the plaster on their walls and ceilings. The next day the Greggs accepted the long-standing offer and turned Strand Millas, cracks and all, over to the duPonts. Through the duPont connection the property has come into the Carpenter occupancy.

The old house is a two-storey-and-attic structure with sturdy walls of native stone, but it has been so added to and altered to meet the requirements of modern living that its original aspect is conjectural. Not the least engaging thing about the house is its association with a ghost. The present mistress of this erstwhile home of the Greggs has quite distinctly seen in her living room a tall, slender man wearing a fur cap and the clothes of a long-past generation. It must have been the wraith of an early Gregg.

Visitation by a ghost, or ghosts, unquestionably adds a touch of glamourous interest to the story of a house (*e.g.* Glamis Castle, in Scotland), over and above its connection with the usual order of personalities or events. For the sake of accuracy, therefore, the ghost, or ghosts, ought not to be omitted from the record.

In this matter-of-fact day most people are apt to pooh-pooh the possibility of apparitions, but it is undeniably true that there are houses, and not always old houses, both here and overseas, where strange phenomena occur from time to time. There are too many instances of such occurrences to dismiss them all as merely idle fancies. If ghosts are not ill-behaved or malicious, the people who live in houses with them generally disregard their chance presence and refuse to ridicule as dreamers those who may occasionally encounter them.



Louviers, north front view. It was designed in 1809 by Eleuthere Irenee duPont for his brother, Victor.



A view of the south front of Louviers.

LOUVIERS

Lower Louviers: Upper House, outside of Wilmington, near the Hagley Museum

Lower Louviers, high above the north bank of the Brandywine where the Creek recedes into open and partly wooded country, is an exceedingly good and valuable example of Regency domestic architecture. The story of both Lower and Upper Louviers or, to be more exact, "Louviers" and the "Upper House", is so intimately bound up with the different personalities of the duPont family that any intelligible account must include both architecture and people.

In 1802, Eleuthère Irénée duPont bought from Pierre Bauduy the land on which the then Bauduy house stood; Eden Park, on the River, came later. This purchase also included a cottage that subsequently became Upper House. In 1809, when Victor duPont, elder brother of Eleuthère Irénée, wished to come and live in Wilmington, he had been living near New York, Eleuthère Irénée offered to design and build a house for the Victor duPont family. Amongst his other talents, Eleuthère Irénée evidently had both taste and considerable architectural ability, judging from what he accomplished.

Family tradition says that Eleuthère drew the plans himself and submitted them to Thomas Jefferson for approval. Legend also says that Jefferson praised the south portico, and likewise highly commended the provision for bringing spring water into the house by gravity. This water system is still in existence.

Older members of the duPont family have said that Victor duPont, on a visit to Charleston, South Carolina, much admired the two-storey colonnades on some of the old plantation houses. This probably explains why Eleuthère Irénée contrived the south portico that received Thomas Jefferson's benediction. In this connection, one should remember that the columns, porticos and pediments of domestic architecture in the latter part of the eighteenth century and the very early years of the nineteenth, especially in the South, were a legitimate legacy from the Late-Georgian or Neo-Classic Manner. These adaptations of Classic precedent had been kept in scale with human habitation. They were utterly distinct from the pomposity of Greek-temple fronts that after 1830, regardless of the disparity between heroic and human scale, were hitched onto dwellings in a mania of undigested architectural properties.

The two-storey stuccoed house that Eleuthère designed for his brother, while it is marked by many of the characteristic external graces of the Regency Manner, the doorway, with its four-centred arch, side-lights and fanlight; semi-circular niches; windows set in countersunk round-arched panels; and panelled parapets, harks back to earlier motifs on the north front in the central pedimented pavilion and moulded wooden cornices. The design of the south portico is a very fresh and individual conception and one can readily see why Jefferson gave it his blessing.

Entered by the north door, a wide hall accounts for most of the breadth of the north pavilion. The stair ascends hence and two side halls connect with the west and east parts of the house. Opening directly from the broad central hall is the great living-room with half-octagon end, opening onto the portico. Circular and oval rooms, and rooms with half-octagon ends still contributed their grace to Regency interiors when Louviers was built. It was left to the stark, rectilinear austerity of the Greek-Revival to banish them from the repertoire of the designer.

In March, 1811, Victor duPont, his wife and four children moved into Louviers. The next item to chronicle in Louvier's story is in 1818, when Marshall Grouchy and his son were staying at Louviers. While they were there a terrible explosion occurred at the powder plant. Thirty-four people were killed. Mrs. E. I. duPont was injured. Many workmen's homes were wrecked, as was E. I. duPont's home and, to a less extent, Louviers. The Victor duPonts took in as many of the homeless as they could. Temporary beds were put all over the house. This was too much for the Grouchys. They vanished one evening and were picked up later, exhausted along the road, having tried to walk to Philadelphia.

In 1824, Charles Irénée, elder son of Victor duPont, married and brought his bride, Dorcas Van Dyke, to live at Louviers. Victor duPont's eldest daughter, Amelia, and her daughter Gabrielle were also living at Louviers. In 1833, Samuel Francis duPont, a younger brother of Charles Irénée, married his cousin

Sophie, daughter of E. I. duPont. Their home was nominally at Louviers, but his Navy career kept him away much of the time.

Mrs. Victor duPont, feeling that Louviers was a bit crowded, housing two couples besides herself, had the cottage up the hill improved and moved there, taking her daughter and Gabrielle. Just how much building and alteration was done to Upper House at this time it would be hard to say. It was sufficient to make Upper House comfortable. In 1837 Mrs. Victor duPont died. Her daughter Amelia left the Upper House and joined her daughter at Rokeby.

Admiral Samuel Francis duPont and his wife made extensive repairs and alterations to the Upper House, and went there to live until their deaths, his in 1865, hers in 1889. The alterations and extensions Admiral duPont made left the Upper House substantially as it appears in the illustration, save for the iron railing atop the portico. That was put on at a much later date.

Upper House bears a distinctly Greek-Revival aspect, but it exhibits the Greek-Revival manner after it had been intelligently digested and shorn of Greek Temple flamboyance; Greek-Revival disciplined by common-sense and no longer striving to force heroic and human scale incongruously into the same composition.

When Admiral and Mrs. duPont moved into the Upper House, it left Charles I. duPont, his wife and three children at the Lower House. In 1866, Eugene duPont married Amelia, the daughter of Charles I. duPont, and the young couple lived at Louviers with her parents, and her unmarried brother Henry. In 1882, Lammot duPont and his family, who had been living at Nemours, moved to Philadelphia. Eugene and Amy felt they could use a larger house, so they went over the Creek to Nemours and a caretaker was left in charge of Louviers. Later that year a bad explosion wrecked the Lower House. It was the upper yard press which blew up. It was located under the hill below Nemours and almost opposite Louviers. After this the Lower House was made weather-tight but remained unoccupied. In 1897 Henry Belin duPont modernised Louviers and went there to live. After his death, and for a number of years the house was most of the time vacant, inaccessible and rather damp since a new crop of trees, planted close to the house by Eugene and Amy, had grown up to shade the place on all sides.

In 1914, with the expansion of Powder Yards operations to the Louviers side of the Brandywine, mills, railroads, keg storage, and cartridge packing experimental works were put up all around the Lower House. It was used as a combination store house and office. About the time the United States entered World War I, a military guard was stationed at the Powder Yards. The soldiers were quartered in the Lower House. A high wooden fence with barbed wire on top of it was put about half way between Upper House and Lower House. Although this was one of the first electrified fences in this part of the country, it was patrolled by sentries regularly. A foot-path now follows a large part of this old fence line. After the Armistice, the black powder operations on the Brandywine were promptly abandoned. Lower House was left a ruin, and achieved a reputation as a haunted house. It stood surrounded by a jungle of tall trees, under which was a ten-foot thicket of saplings smothered in honeysuckle and poison ivy. All around were ruined mills, railroads and signs of a "former civilisation." Vandals stripped the house of all hardware, doorknobs, radiators, mantels, window sash and electric wiring.

When the Powder Yards were parcelled and purchased by various members of the duPont family in 1922, Mary duPont Laird bought the tract on which Lower House stands. It was boarded up and stood vacant, still "haunted" until 1935. William Winder Laird, Jr., then restored Lower House. He and his wife and their three children now live there.

LOMBARDY

On the north side of Concord Pike (U.S. Route 202) near Wilmington at Blue Ball, the junction with Faulk Road

On the north side of the Concord Pike at Blue Ball is the house called Lombardy. It stands close to the road in what is now Lombardy Cemetery. An Historical Marker in front of the place commemorates the

fact that it was once the residence of Gunning Bedford, Jr. It is now the office of the Cemetery, and since the death of Gunning Bedford, Jr., in 1812, it has been put to a variety of uses and has passed through the hands of various owners.

In 1785, Gunning Bedford, Jr. bought a tract of 250 acres, on which the house stands. It was then called "Pisgah." It was part of a tract formerly called "New Wark," which William Penn had granted to Valentine Hollingsworth. Bedford changed the name of the place to "Lombardy." The Bedfords entertained handsomely, and Mrs. Bedford, whose mother was French, assiduously extended hospitality to the many French émigrés who flocked to Wilmington.

The house is a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic structure, two rooms deep with a central hall. It is built of native grey stone. The stone is so dark a grey that in places it appears almost black. It is of the sort frequently found along the Brandywine Creek in both Delaware and Pennsylvania. Stone, it should be borne in mind, as well as brick, is a natural and much used building material in northern Delaware. South of New Castle County its use is rare. Only a very few instances of stone construction occur in old buildings in Kent County, and none in Sussex.

In its original plan, the house was two rooms deep on the north side of the central hall. On the south side, the room completing the two-room depth was a later addition. The exterior of Lombardy is severely plain. The absence of outside architectural amenities on a presumably Georgian body is suggestive of prevalent Quaker influence at the time it was built. Inside the house there are remnants of good, vigorous woodwork, the type of which would indicate the date of erection as somewhere about the middle of the eighteenth century. When the woodwork and panelling were intact, austerity was on the outside only.

At the time Gunning Bedford, Jr. owned and lived in Lombardy, it could have been, and doubtless was, a handsome and inviting house, quite in the class with other important places of the day. Since Bedford's death, the neglect and alterations it has suffered, Victorian sashes and glazing in the window openings, and mutilations within, have left the place a sorry wreck of an erstwhile comely country-seat. The house, however, is structurally sound and not past restoration.

Gunning Bedford, Jr. was generally spoken of in his day as "Judge Bedford." The "junior" was added to distinguish him from his slightly elder cousin, Gunning Bedford, the Governor. Born in Philadelphia in 1747, he was graduated from Princeton in 1771 in the class with James Madison. During the Revolutionary War he was in active service and it is said he was an aide to General Washington; his connection with Washington's staff is stated by his daughter in her will.

After his admission to the Bar, he moved to Dover in 1779 where he practised until his subsequent removal to Wilmington. He entered actively into political life and in 1783, 1785 and 1786 he was a member of the Continental Congress. From 1784 to 1789 he was the Attorney-General of Delaware. In 1786, along with George Read, Jacob Broom, John Dickinson and Richard Bassett he was a commissioner from Delaware to the Annapolis Convention. In 1787 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention and vigorously supported the principle that each of the States, "regardless of size or population," should have an equal representation in the United States Senate.

On the promulgation of the Constitution, Gunning Bedford, Jr. made strenous efforts to secure the prompt ratification that made Delaware the First State in the Union. In 1788 he was elected a member of the State Council. In 1789 President Washington appointed him the first Judge of the United States Court for the District of Delaware. Judge Bedford remained on the bench for twenty-three years, until his death March 30, 1812.



Louviers, the Upper House.



The Robinson House at Naaman's, north of Claymont, west front view. The small building with the pyramidal roof at the extreme right, is a Swedish Blockhouse built 1654.

NAAMAN'S

Naaman's Road and U.S. Route 13, north of Claymont

Under this one title are two distinct items, the Robinson house and the adjacent Swedish Blockhouse. Since they have been combined for a number of years as a restaurant or tea room, it seems best to consider them together. The buildings face the southwest towards Naaman's Creek, once a milling stream of some moment, now reduced to a small brook. Great manufacturing plants and oil refineries dominate the immediate neighbourhood, but Naaman's Road, in front of the buildings, leads quickly to open farming country nearby.

The Robinson house or, rather, houses stand on part of a 1000-acre tract patented in 1675 to six Swedes and Dutchmen, while Sir Edmund Andros was Governour under the Duke of York's Government. The stone part of the two-storey-and-attic house was built about 1723; the western part of the house is a somewhat later structure with walls of wide, smoothly-matched ship planks with flush joints. A much later addition accounts for the long portico of fluted Doric columns across the southwest front of the structure. On the ground floor there is much fine original woodwork, but so many changes have been made in the course of adapting the place to its later uses that its erstwhile state is hard to visualise.

The adjacent Swedish Blockhouse, now a connected adjunct of the Robinson house, was built in 1654 by Johan Rising, the last Governour of New Sweden. It was meant to protect the mills and farms along the creek. It is a little square, two-storey structure with a hip roof and very thick stone walls. The ground floor is entirely taken up with one room, in which is an enormous fireplace that extends across nearly the whole of the east side. There were originally no windows, only a door, on the west side opposite the fireplace. A narrow wooden stair ascends on the west side, opposite the fireplace, to an upper room where, through loopholes beneath the eaves, defenders could shoot with their muskets at assailants. At a later date, when there were no longer any dangers of attack, small windows were cut through the thick stone walls.

The Blockhouse was not intended to be lived in and never had any provisions for domestic occupancy such as might be expected in the simplest kind of dwelling; the ground floor was a place of huddled refuge for non-combatants, the upper floor, with its limited light coming through the loopholes, a vantage spot for the defenders. The small windows cut through the walls at a later date make it possible to use the upper room as an emergency bedroom.

When the seventeenth-century Swedes used stone-construction, they proved capable stone-masons in building strong rubble walls. In a stone blockhouse they built in 1645, the core of what is now Ury House, at Fox Chase, Philadelphia, it became expedient some years ago to remove a small part of the original masonry. Crowbars and mallets proved ineffectual; they had to use dynamite. The walls at Naaman's Blockhouse are of the same sort.

The Robinson house is so called from General Thomas Robinson, who bought the property in 1749. He was afterwards killed in the West, fighting hostile Indians. Standing close by the King's Highway as it did, the Robinsons maintained the house as an inn. It was a favourite stopping place for all the notables from the South, especially when Philadelphia was the meeting-place of the Continental Congress and afterwards the National Capital.

General Washington was oftentimes a guest and, from August 23rd to the 25th, 1777, he waited there to learn of the movements of the British Army after landing at the Head of Elk. The next year, "Light Horse Harry" Lee, of Virginia, captured three officers from a British warship in the Delaware, when they had come ashore to have breakfast at the inn. General Anthony Wayne often visited the house to see Abraham Robinson, his brother-in-law, who was then the proprietor of the inn.

The Blockhouse Governour Johan Rising had built in 1654, Peter Stuyvesant's soldiers captured in 1655, In 1671 the Indians captured it and in 1777 the British took it on their march to Philadelphia. The Robinson house and the Swedish Blockhouse so strongly appealed to Henry Ford some years ago that he tried to buy the group and have it removed to his Early American Museum at Dearborn, Michigan.

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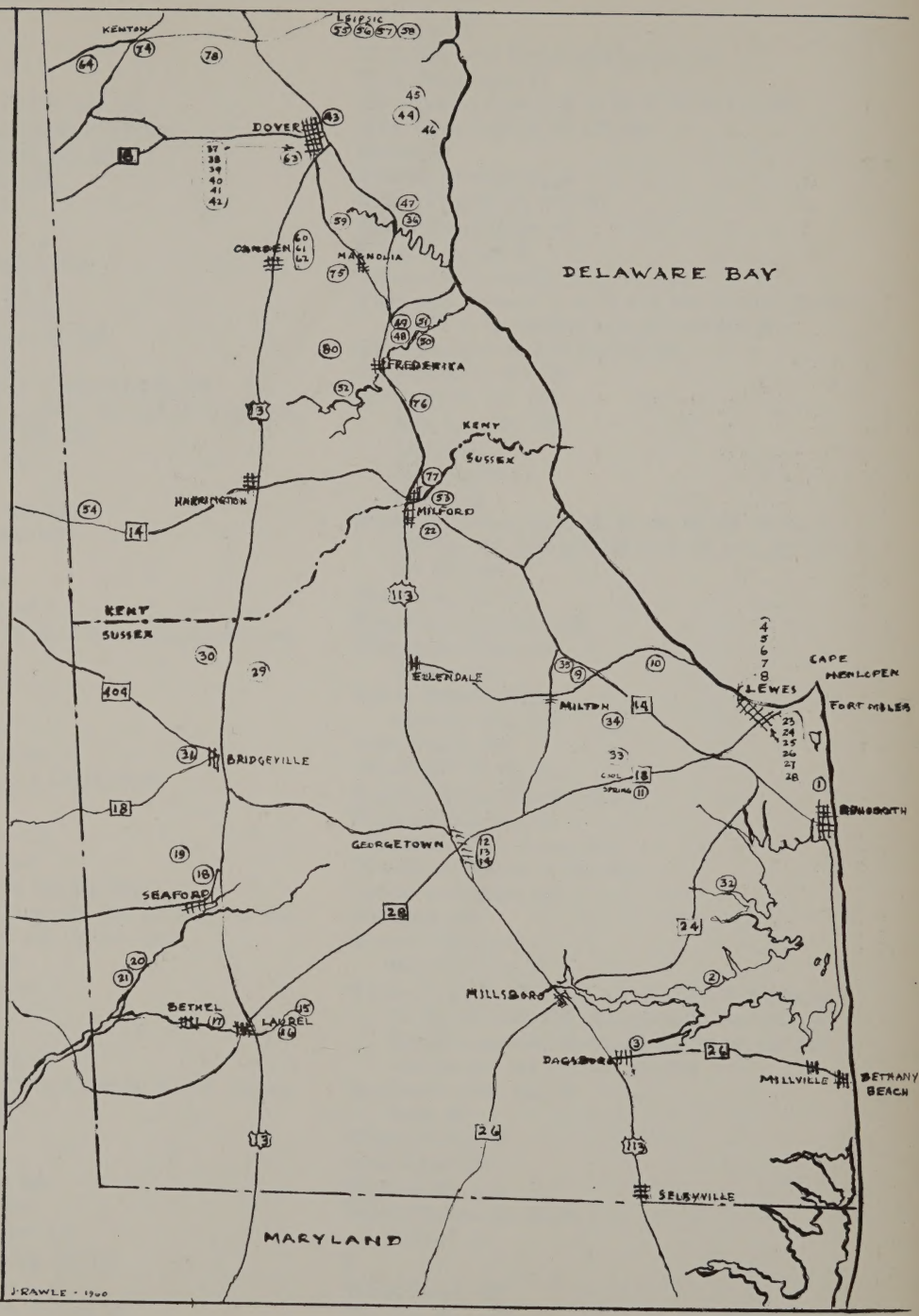
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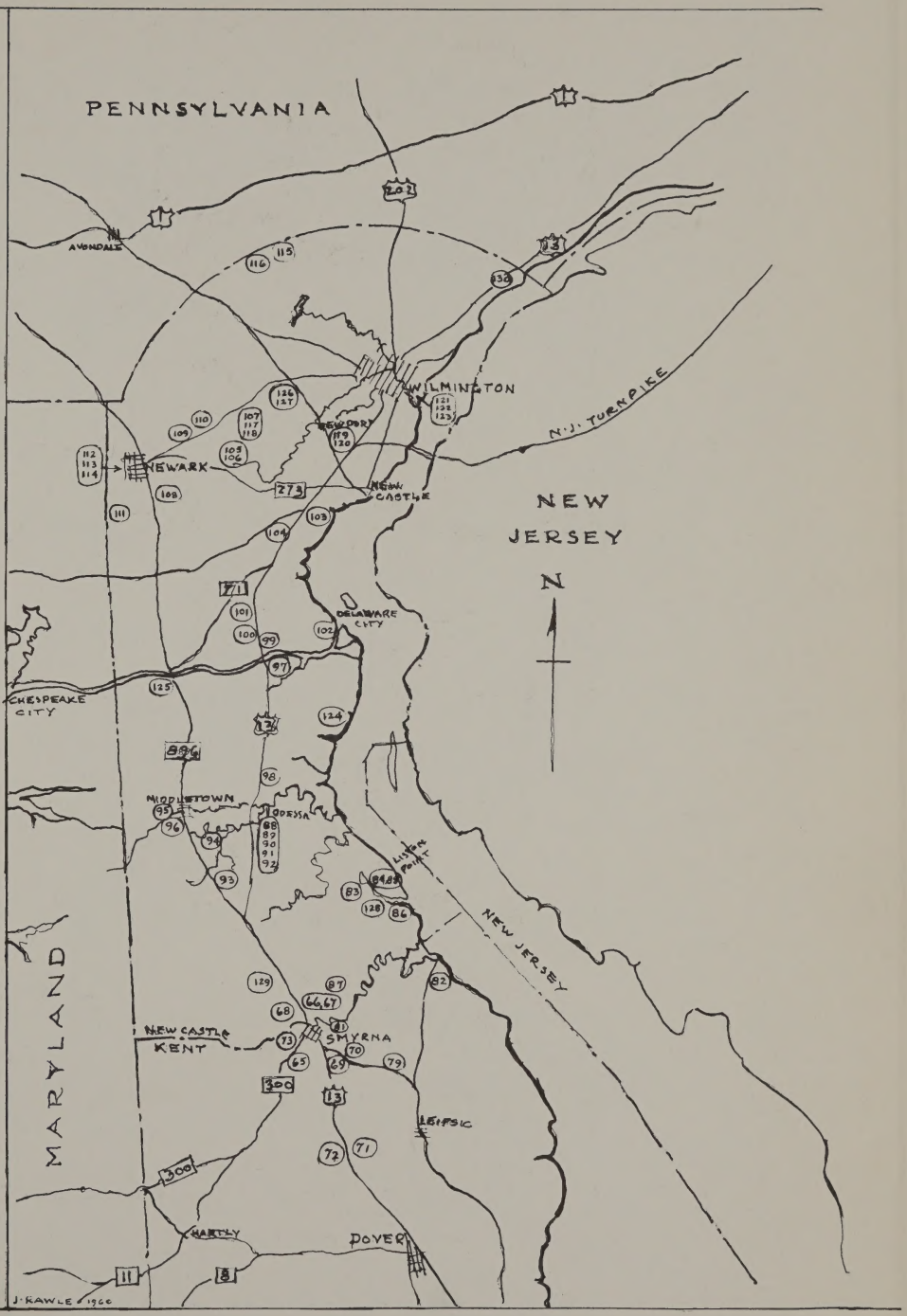
SUSSEX & KENT COUNTIES

1. THE HOMESTEAD, REHOBOTH
2. THE WHITEHOUSE, INDIAN RIVER
3. PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPEL, DAGSBORO
4. COL. DAVID HALL HOUSE
5. RYVES HOLT HOUSE
6. COLEMAN HOUSE
7. THOMAS MAULL HOUSE
8. FISHER'S PARADISE
9. CONWELL HOUSE
10. CEDAR CROFT
11. WHITE MEADOW FARM
12. SUSSEX COUNTY COURT HOUSE
13. OLD SUSSEX COURT HOUSE
14. THE JUDGES
15. CHRIST CHURCH, BROAD CREEK
16. ROSEMONT, NORTH LAUREL
17. SHIP CARPENTERS' HOUSES, BETHEL
18. LAWRENCE, SEAFORD
19. ROSS HOUSE, SEAFORD
20. CANNON HALL
21. WALNUT LANDING
22. CAUSEY HOUSE, SOUTH MILFORD
23. CANNON BALL HOUSE
24. REGISTER HOUSE
25. DANIEL RODNEY HOUSE
26. ORTON HOUSE
27. WILLIAM RUSSELL HOUSE
28. COON DEN, GREENWOOD
29. LOCUST GROVE
30. SUDLER HOUSE
31. ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL
32. COOL SPRING PRES. CHURCH
33. HOPKINS HOUSE
34. BENJAMIN WHITE HOUSE
36. TOWN POINT
37. STATE HOUSE
38. CHRIST CHURCH
39. OLD ACADEMY
40. RIDGELY HOUSE
41. LOOCKERMAN HOUSE
42. WOODBURN
43. BERRY'S RANGE
44. YORK SEAT
45. "EIGHT-SQUARE" SCHOOLHOUSE
46. OLD STONE TAVERN
47. DICKINSON MANSION
48. LOWBER HOUSE
49. JEHU REED HOUSE
50. BARRATT HOUSE
51. BARRATT'S CHAPEL
52. MORDINGTON
53. PARSON THORNE HOUSE
54. BAYNARD
55. PLEASANTON ABBEY
56. TYN HEAD COURT
57. WHEEL OF FORTUNE
58. SNOWLAND
59. GREAT GENEVA & WILDCAT
60. MIFFLIN HOUSE
61. COOPER HOUSE
62. CAMDEN FRIENDS MEETING
63. EDEN HILL
64. ASPENDALE
65. BANNISTER HALL
66. SPRUANCE HOUSE
67. CUMMINS HOUSE
68. HOFFECKER
69. WOODLAWN
70. BELMONT HALL
71. GARRISON HOUSE
72. FORMER PRESBYTERIAN MANSE
73. LOCKWOOD HOUSE
74. COOPER HOUSE, KENTON
75. LOWBER HOUSE, MAGNOLIA
76. THARP HOUSE
77. TORBERT HOUSE
78. SOMERVILLE
79. TIMOTHY CUMMINS FARM
80. BONWELL HOUSE
81. THE LINDENS
82. HOUSE ON GAME RESERVE
83. HUGUENOT HOUSE
84. LISTON HOUSE
85. HART HOUSE
86. OLD BRICK HOTEL
87. CLEARFIELD FARM
88. FAIRVIEW
89. DAVID WILSON HOUSE
90. CORBIT HOUSE
91. APPOQUINIMINK MEETING HOUSE
92. OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH
93. NAUDAIN HOUSE
94. NOXON HOUSE AND MILL
95. OLD ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
96. COCHRAN GRANGE
97. MONTEREY
98. MACDONOUGH HOUSE
99. SUTTON HOUSE



NEW CASTLE & KENT COUNTIES

100. LINDEN HILL
101. DAMASCUS
102. LEXINGTON-CHELSEA
103. MANSION FARM
104. BUENA VISTA
105. LEWDEN HOUSE
106. READ HOUSE
107. SPRINGER HOUSE
108. COOCH HOUSE
109. JOHN ENGLAND HOUSE
110. CHESTNUT HILL FARM
111. WELSH TRACT BAPTIST MEETING
112. OLD COLLEGE
113. PURNELL HALL
114. ELLIOTT HALL
115. ASHLAND MILLS
116. GARRETT HOUSE
117. BOYCE HOUSE
118. TATNALL-BYRNES HOUSE
119. GALLOWAY HOUSE
120. PARKIN-MYERS HOUSE
121. NORWOOD
122. ROCKWELL
123. RICHARDSON
124. DR. DAVID STEWART HOUSE
125. BUCK OR CARSON'S TAVERN
126. ST. JAMES' CHURCH
127. JOHN STALCOP LOG HOUSE
128. FLEMING'S LANDING
129. LACKFORD HALL
130. NAAMAN'S
131. AMSTEL HOUSE
132. SENATOR VAN DYKE HOUSE
133. KENSEY JOHNS VAN DYKE HOUSE
134. KENSEY JOHNS HOUSE
135. KENSEY JOHNS JUNIOR HOUSE
136. OLD DUTCH HOUSE
137. RODNEY HOUSE
138. BOOTH HOUSE
139. WILLIAM PENN HOUSE
140. COLBY HOUSE
141. GUNNING BEDFORD HOUSE
142. McINTIRE HOUSE
143. VAN LEUVENIGH HOUSE
144. READ HOUSE
145. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
146. IMMANUEL CHURCH
147. GLEBE HOUSE
148. THE HERITAGE
149. OLD COURT HOUSE
150. OLD ACADEMY
151. BOOTHHURST
152. EDEN PARK
153. SWANWYCK
154. OLD TOWN HALL, NEW CASTLE
155. OLD ARSENAL
156. GEMMILL HOUSE
157. GILPIN HOUSE
158. DELAWARE HOUSE
159. OLD JEFFERSON HOTEL
160. OLD FARMERS' BANK
161. AULL HOUSES
162. IMMANUEL PARISH HOUSE
163. SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL
164. THE DEEMER HOUSE
165. STONUM
166. DUNLEITH
167. GRANTHAM HOUSE
168. THE BUTTONWOODS
169. MONK BARNS
170. OLD EVES PLACE
171. WOODSTOCK
172. ASHLEY
173. GLYNRICH
174. BANNING HOUSE
175. THE TATNALL HOUSES
176. DERRICKSON-BRINGHURST HOUSE
177. GRAY HOUSE
178. ELEUTHERIAN MILLS
179. STRAND MILLAS
180. LOUVIERS
181. ALRICHS HOUSE
182. LONG HOOK FARM
183. LOMBARDY
184. OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
185. DELAWARE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
186. OLD TOWN HALL, WILMINGTON
187. FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE



OVERSIZE